

Law is a Bottomless Pit :

R.

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF

JOHN BULL.

PUBLISHED

FROM A MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN THE CABI-
NET OF THE FAMOUS SIR H. POLESWORTH,
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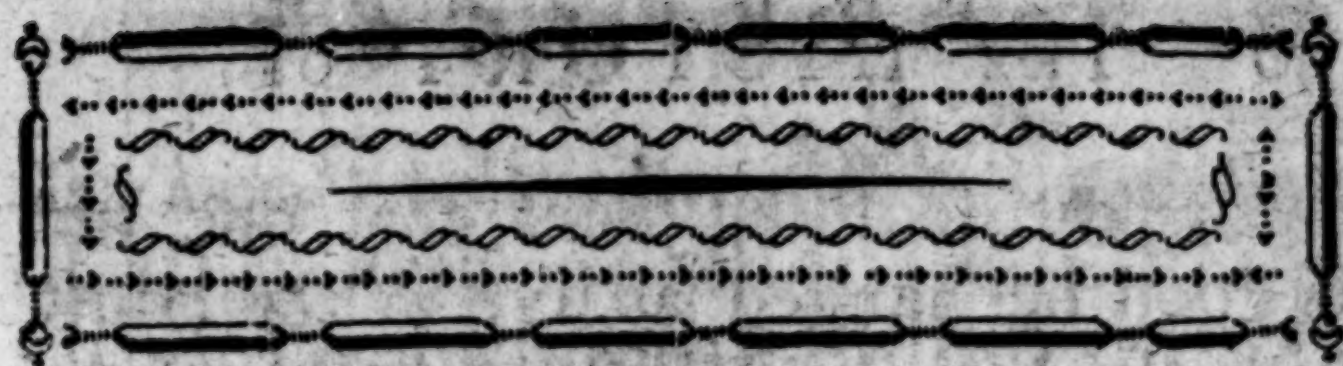
THE world is much indebted to the famous sir Humphrey Polesworth for his ingenious and impartial account of John Bull's lawsuit ; yet there is just cause of complaint against him, in that he relates it only by parcels, and won't give us the whole work : This forces me, who am only the publisher, to bespeak the assistance of his friends and acquaintance to engage him to lay aside that stingy humour, and gratify the curiosity of the publick at once. He pleads in excuse, that they are only private memoirs, wrote for his own use, in a loose style, to serve as a help to his ordinary conversation. I represented to him the good reception the first*

* This excuse of sir Humphrey can only relate to the second part, or sequel of the history. See the preface to the first part.

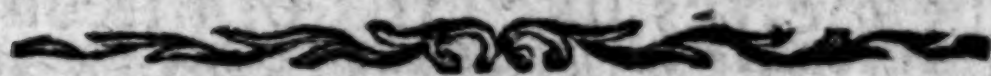
first part had met with ; that though calculated only for the meridian of Grub-street, it was yet taken notice of by the better sort ; that the world was now sufficiently acquainted with John Bull, and interested itself in his concerns. He answered, with a smile, that he had indeed some trifling things to impart, that concerned John Bull's relations and domestic affairs ; if these would satisfy me, he gave me free leave to make use of them, because they would serve to make the history of the law-suit more intelligible. When I had looked over the manuscript, I found likewise some further account of the composition, which perhaps may not be unacceptable to such as have read the former part.

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T H E



THE
HISTORY
OF
JOHN BULL.



CHAP. I.

*The character of * John Bull's mother.*

JOHN had a mother whom he loved and honoured extremely ; a discreet, grave, sober, good conditioned, cleanly old gentlewoman as ever lived ; she was none of your cross-grained,
H 2 termagant,

* The Church of England.

termagant, scolding jades, that one had as good be hanged as live in the house with, such as are always censuring the conduct, and telling scandalous stories of their neighbours, extolling their own good qualities, and undervaluing those of others. On the contrary, she was of a meek spirit, and as she was strictly virtuous herself, so she always put the best construction upon the words and actions of her neighbours, except where they were irreconcilable to the rules of honesty and decency. She was neither one of your precise *pruders*, nor one of your fantastical old *belles*, that dress themselves like girls of fifteen: as she neither wore a ruff, forehead cloth, nor high crowned hat, so she had laid aside feathers, flowers, and crimpt ribbons in her head-dress, furbelo-scarfs, and hooped-petticoats. She scorned to patch and paint, yet she loved to keep her hands and her face clean. Though she wore no flaunting laced ruffles, she would not keep herself in a constant sweat with greasy flannel: though her hair was not stuck with jewels, she was not ashamed of a diamond cross: she was

was not like some ladies, hung about with toys and trinkets, tweezer-cases, pocket-glasses, and essence bottles; she used only a gold watch and an almanack, to mark the hours and the holy-days.

Her furniture was neat and genteel, well fancied with a *bon goust*. As she affected not the grandeur of a state with a canopy, she thought there was no offence in an elbow-chair; she had laid aside your carving, gilding, and japan work, as being too apt to gather dirt; but she never could be prevailed upon to part with plain wainscot and clean hangings. There are some ladies, that affect to smell a stink in every thing; they are always highly perfumed, and continually burning frankincense in their rooms; she was above such affectation, yet she never would lay aside the use of brooms and scrubbing-brushes, and scrupled not to lay her linen in fresh lavender.

She was no less genteel in her behaviour, well-bred, without affectation, in the

the due mean between one of your affected curt'fying pieces of formality, and your romps that have no regard to the common rules of civility. There are some ladies, that affect a mighty regard for their relations ; *We must not eat to-day, for my uncle Tom, or my cousin Betty, died this time ten years : Let's have a ball to-night, it is my neighbour such-a-one's birth-day ;* she looked upon all this as grimace ; yet she constantly observed her husband's birth-day, her wedding-day, and some few more.

Though she was a truly good woman, and had a sincere motherly love for her son *John*, yet there wanted not those who endeavoured to create a misunderstanding between them, and they had so far prevailed with him once, that he turned her out of doors,* to his great sorrow, as he found afterwards, for his affairs went on at fixes and sevens.

She was no less judicious in the turn of her conversation and choice of her studies, in which she far exceeded all her

* In the Rebellion of 1641.

her sex : your rakes that hate the company of all sober, grave gentlewomen, would bear hers ; and she would, by her handsome manner of proceeding, sooner reclaim them than some that were more sour and reserved : she was a zealous preacher up of chastity, and *conjugal fidelity* in wives, and by no means a friend to the new-fangled doctrine of the *indispensable duty of cuckoldom* : though she advanced her opinions with a becoming assurance, yet she never ushered them in, as some positive creatures will do, with dogmatical assertions, *This is infallible ; I cannot be mistaken ; None but a rogue can deny it.* It has been observed, that such people are oftner in the wrong than any body.

Though she had a thousand good qualities, she was not without her faults, amongst which one might perhaps reckon too great lenity to her servants, to whom she always gave good counsel, but often too gentle correction. I thought I could not say less of *John Bull's* mother, because she bears a part in the following transactions.

CHAP.

C H A P. II.

*The character of John Bull's * sister Peg, with the quarrels that happened between master and miss in their childhood.*

JOHN had a sister, a poor girl that had been starved at nurse; any body would have guessed miss to have been bred up under the influence of a cruel step-dame, and John to be the fondling of a tender mother. John looked ruddy and plump, with a pair of cheeks like a trumpeter; miss looked pale and wan, as if she had the green sickness; and no wonder, for John was the darling, he had all the good bits, was crammed with good pullet, chicken, pig, goose, and capon, while miss had only a little oatmeal and water, or a dry crust without butter. John had his golden pippins, peaches, and nectarines; poor miss a crab-apple, sloe, or a blackberry. Master lay in the best apartment, with his bed-chamber towards the south sun. Miss lodged in a garret, exposed to the north

* The nation and Church of Scotland.

north wind, which shrivelled her countenance ; however, this usage, though it stunted the girl in her growth, gave her a hardy constitution ; she had life and spirit in abundance, and knew when she was ill used : now and then she would seize upon *John's* commons, snatch a leg of a pullet, or a bit of good beef, for which they were sure to go to fifty cuffs. Master was indeed too strong for her ; but miss would not yield in the least point, but even when master had got her down, she would scratch and bite like a tyger ; when he gave her a cuff on the ear, she would prick him with her knitting-needle. *John* brought a great chain one day to tie her to the bed-post, for which affront, miss aimed a pen-knife at his heart.* In short, these quarrels grew up to rooted aversions ; they gave one another nick-names : she called him *Gundy-guts*, and he called her *lousy Peg* ; though the girl was a tight clever wench as

* *Henry VIII.* to unite the two kingdoms under one sovereign offered his daughter *Mary* to *James V.* of *Scotland* ; this offer was rejected, and followed by a war : to this event probably the author alludes.

as any was, and thro' her pale looks you might discern spirit and vivacity, which made her not, indeed, a perfect beauty, but something that was agreeable. It was barbarous in parents not to take notice of these early quarrels, and make them live better together, such domestick feuds proving afterwards the occasion of misfortunes to them both. *Peg* had, indeed, some odd humours, and comical antipathy, for which, *John* would jeer her. "What think you of my sister *Peg* (says he) that faints at the sound of an organ, and yet will dance and frisk at the noise of a bagpipe?" "What's that to you, *Gundy-guts*, (quoth *Peg*) every body's to chuse their own musick." Then *Peg* had taken a fancy not to say her *Pater-noster*, which made people imagine strange things of her. Of the three brothers, that have made such a clatter in the world, lord *Peter*, *Martin* and *Jack*, * *Jack* had of late been her inclination: lord *Peter* she detested: nor did *Martin* stand much better in her good graces, but *Jack* had found the way

* Love of Presbytery.

seeming content, assuring them he did not intend to change any of the honourable maxims of his predecessors.

C H A P. II.

*How Bull and Frog grew jealous, that the lord Strutt intended to give all his custom to his grandfather Lewis Baboon.**

IT happened unfortunately for the peace of our neighbourhood, that this young lord had an old cunning rogue, or (as the Scots call it) a *false loon*, of a grandfather, that one might justly call a *Jack of all trades*;† sometimes you would see him behind his counter selling broad-cloth, sometimes measuring linen; next day he would be dealing in mercery-ware; high heads, ribbons, gloves, fans, and lace, he understood

* *Lewis the XIV*, and hinder the *French* nation, whose

† *trade and character* are thus described, and whose king had a

derstood to a nicety ; *Charles Mather* could not bubble a young beau better with a toy ; nay, he would descend even to the selling of tape, garters, and shoebuckles : when shop was shut up, he would go about the neighbourhood, and earn half a crown by teaching the young men and maids to dance. By these methods he had acquired immense riches, which he used to squander * away at back-sword, quarter-staff, and cudgel-play, in which he took great pleasure, and challenged all the country. You will say it is no wonder if *Bull* and *Frog* should be jealous of this fellow. “ It is not impossible (says *Frog* “ to *Bull*) but this old rogue will take “ the management of the young lord’s “ business into his hands ; besides, the “ rascal has good ware, and will serve “ him as cheap as any body. In that “ case, I leave you to judge what must “ become of us and our families ; we “ must starve, or turn journeymen to old

* *strong disposition to war*, from becoming too potent, an alliance, was formed to “ procure a reasonable satisfaction to the house of *Austria* for its pretensions to the “ *Spanish* succession, and sufficient

“ old *Lewis Baboon* ; therefore, neigh-
“ bour, I hold it adviseable, that we
“ write to young lord *Strutt* to know
“ the bottom of this matter.”

C H A P. III.

*A copy of Bull and Frog's letter to lord
Strutt.*

MY LORD,

I SUPPOSE your lordship knows,
that the *Bulls* and the *Frogs* have ser-
ved the lord *Strutts* with all sorts of dra-
pery-ware time out of mind: and whereas
we are jealous, not without reason, that
your lordship intends henceforth to buy
of your grandfire old *Lewis Baboon* ;
this is to inform your lordship, that
this proceeding does not suit with the
circumstances of our families, who have
lived and made a good figure in the
world by the generosity of the lord
Strutts. Therefore we think fit to ac-
quaint

quaint your lordship, that you must find sufficient *security* * to us, our heirs and assigns, that you will not employ *Lewis Baboon*; or else we will take our remedy at law, clap an action upon you of 20,000*l.* for old debts, seize and distrain your goods and chattels, which, considering your lordship's circumstances, will plunge you into difficulties, from which it will not be easy to extricate yourself; therefore we hope, when your lordship has better considered on it, you will comply with the desire of

Your loving friends,

J O H N B U L L.
N I C. F R O G.

Some of *Bull's* friends advised him to take gentler methods with the young lord: but *John* naturally loved rough play. It is impossible to express the surprize of the lord *Strutt* upon the receipt

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* "*security* to *England* and *Holland* for their dominions, navigation, and commerce, and to prevent the union of the two monarchies *France* and *Spain*." To effect these purposes, queen *Ann* was by

ceipt of this letter ; he was not flush in ready either to go to law, or clear old debts, neither could he find good bail : he offered to bring matters to a friendly accommodation ; and promised upon his word of honour, that he would not change his drapers ; but all to no purpose, for *Bull* and *Frog* saw clearly that old *Lewis* would have the cheating of him.

C H A P. IV.

How Bull and Frog went to law with lord Strutt about the premises, and were join'd by the rest of the tradesmen.

ALL endeavours of accommodation between lord *Strutt* and his drapers proved vain ; jealousies increas'd, and indeed it was rumoured abroad, that lord *Strutt* had bespoke his new liveries of old *Lewis Baboon*. This coming to Mrs. *Bull's** ears, when *John Bull* came

* the parliament precipitated into the war as a principal. Among her allies were

came home, he found all his family in an uproar. Mrs. *Bull* you must know, was very apt to be cholerick. “ You
 “ sot, (says she,) you loiter about ale-
 “ houses and taverns, spend your time
 “ at billiards, ninepins, or puppet-shows,
 “ or flaunt about the streets in your new
 “ gilt chariot, never minding me nor
 “ your numerous family. Don’t you
 “ hear how lord *Strutt* has bespoke his
 “ liveries at *Lewis Baboon’s* shop? Don’t
 “ you see how that old fox steals away
 “ your customers, and turns you out of
 “ your business every day, and you sit
 “ like an idle drone with your hands in
 “ your pockets? Fie upon it! up man,
 “ rouse thyself; I’ll sell to my shift, be-
 “ fore I’ll be so used by that knave.”
 You must think Mrs. *Bull* had been pretty well tuned up by *Frog*, who chimed in with her learned harangue. No further delay now, but to council learned in the law they go, who unanimously assured them both of the justice and infallible success of their law-suit.

I told you before, that old *Lewis Baboon* was a sort of a *Jack of all trades*,
 which

which made the rest of the tradesmen jealous, as well as *Bull* and *Frog* ; they hearing of the quarrel were glad of an opportunity of joining against old *Lewis Baboon*, provided that *Bull* and *Frog* would bear the charges of the suit ; even lying *Ned*,* the chimney sweeper of *Savoy*, and *Tom*† the *Portugal* dust-man, put in their claims ; and the cause was put into the hands of * *Humphry Hocus* the attorney.

A declaration was drawn up to shew
 “ That *Bull* and *Frog* had undoubted
 “ right by prescription to be drapers to
 “ the lord *Strutts* ; that there were sev-
 “ eral old contracts to that purpose ;
 “ that *Lewis Baboon* had taken up the
 “ trade of clothier and draper, without
 “ serving his time or purchasing his
 “ freedom ; that he sold goods, that
 “ were not marketable, without the
 “ stamp ; that he himself was more fit
 “ for a bully than a tradesman, and went
 “ about through all the country fairs
 “ challenging

* the *Duke of Savoy* ; and

† the *King of Portugal* ; and

* *John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough* was appointed general in chief of the confederate army.

“challenging people to fight prizes,
“wrestling and cudgel-play;” and abundance more to this purpose.

C H A P. V.

*The true characters of John Bull, Nic.
Frog, and Hocus.*

FOR the better understanding the following history, the reader ought to know, that *Bull*, in the main, was an honest plain-dealing fellow, cholerick, bold, and of a very unconstant temper; he dreaded not old *Lewis* either at back-sword, single faulchion, or cudgel-play; but then he was very apt to quarrel with his best friends, especially if they pretended to govern him: if you flattered him you might lead him like a child. *John's* temper depended very much upon the air; his spirits rose and fell with the weather-glass. *John* was quick, and understood his business very well; but no man alive was more careless in looking

ing

ing into his accounts, or more cheated by partners, apprentices, and servants. This was occasioned by his being a boon companion, loving his bottle and his diversion ; for, to say truth, no man kept a better house than *John*, nor spent his money more generously. By plain and fair dealing, *John* had acquir'd some plumbs, and might have kept them, had it not been for his unhappy law-suit.

Nic. Frog was a cunning fly whore-son, quite the reverse of *John* in many particulars ; covetous, frugal ; minded domestic affairs ; would pinch his belly to save his pocket ; never lost a farthing by careless servants, or bad debtors. He did not care much for any sort of diversions, except tricks of *high german* artists, and *leger-de-main* : no man exceeded *Nic.* in these ; yet it must be owned, that *Nic.* was a fair dealer, and in that way acquired immense riches.

Hocus was an old cunning attorney ; and though this was the first considerable suit, that ever he was engaged in, he shew'd himself superior in address to
most

most of his profession : he kept always good clerks, he loved money, was smooth-tongued, gave good words, and seldom lost his temper : he was not worse than an infidel; for he provided plentifully for his family ; but he loved himself better than them all : the neighbours reported, that he was henpecked ; which was impossible by such a mild-spirited woman, as his wife was.

C H A P. VI.

Of the various success of the law-suit.

LA W is a bottomless pit ; it is a voracious, a harpy that devours every thing. John Bull was flattered by the lawyers, that his suit would not last above a year or two at most ; that before that time he would be in quiet possession of his business ; yet ten long years did Hocus steer his cause through all the meanders of the law, and all the courts. No skill, no address was wanting ;

ing ; and, to say truth, *John* did not starve his cause ; there wanted not yellow-boys to fee counsel, hire witnesses, and bribe juries : lord *Strutt* was generally cast, never had one verdict in his favour ;* and *John* was promised that the next, and the next, would be the final determination ; but alas ! that final determination and happy conclusion, was like an enchanted island, the nearer *John* came to it, the further it went from him : new trials upon new points still arose ; new doubts, new matters to be cleared ; in short, lawyers seldom part with so good a cause, till they have got the oyster, and their clients the shell. *John's* ready money, book-debts, bonds, mortgages, all went into the lawyer's pockets : then *John* began to borrow money upon *Bank-stock* and *East-India* bonds : now and then a farm went to pot. At last † it was thought a good expedient

* The war was carried on against *France* and *Spain* with great success, and a peace might have been concluded upon the principles of the alliance ; but a partition of the *Spanish* dominions in favour of the house of *Austria*, and an engagement that the same person should never be King of *France* and *Spain*, were not now thought sufficient.

† It was insisted, that the will in favour of *Philip*, was contrary

pedient to set up esquire *South's* title, to prove the *will forg'd*, and dispossess *Philip* lord *Strutt* at once. Here again was a new field for the lawyers, and the cause grew more intricate than ever. *John* grew madder and madder; wherever he met any of lord *Strutt's* servants, he tore off their cloaths: now and then you would see them come home naked, without shoes, stockings, and linen. As for old *Lewis Baboon*, he was reduced to his last shift, though he had as many as any other: his children were reduced from rich silks to *Doily* stuffs, his servants in rags, and barefooted; instead of good victuals, they now lived upon neck-beef, and bullock's liver: in short, nobody got much by the matter, but the men of law.

C

C H A P.

contrary to treaty; and there was a parliamentary declaration for continuing the war, till he should be dethroned.

C H A P. VII.

How John Bull was so mightily pleased with his success, that he was going to leave off his trade, and turn lawyer.

IT is wisely observed by a great philosopher, that habit is a second nature : this was verified in the case of *John Bull*, who, from an honest and plain tradesman, had got such a haunt about the courts of justice, and such a jargon of law-words, that he concluded himself as able a lawyer as any that pleaded at the bar, or sat on the bench : He was overheard one day talking to himself after this manner. “ * How capriciously does fate or chance dispose
“ of mankind ? How seldom is that business allotted to a man, for which he
“ is fitted by nature ? It is plain, I was
“ intended for a man of law : how did
“ my guardians mistake my genius in
“ placing me, like a mean slave, behind
“ a counter ? Bless me ! what immense
“ estates

* The manners and sentiments of the nation became extravagant and chimerical.

“ estates these fellows raise by the law ?
“ Besides, it is the profession of a gen-
“ tleman. What a pleasure is it to be
“ victorious in a cause ? to swagger at
“ the bar ? What a fool am I to drudge
“ any more in this woollen trade ? for
“ a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I
“ will be ; one is never too old to
“ learn.” All this while *John* had con-
ned over such a catalogue of hard
words, as were enough to conjure up
the devil ; these he used to babble in-
differently in all companies, especially
at coffee-houses ; so that his neighbour
tradesmen began to shun his company as
a man that was cracked. Instead of the
affairs at *Blackwell-hall*, and price of
broad-cloth, wool and baizes, he talks
of nothing but *actions upon the case, re-
turns, capias, alias capias, demurrers, ve-
nire facias, replevins, supersedeas's, cer-
tiorari's, writs of error, actions of trover
and conversion, trespasses, precipe's and
dedimus.* This was matter of jest to the
learned in law ; however, *Hocus*, and the
rest of the tribe, encouraged *John* in his
fancy, assuring him that he had a great
genius for law ; that they question'd not,
but

but in time he might raise money enough by it to reimburse him all his charges ; that if he studied, he would undoubtedly arrive to the dignity of a lord chief justice :* as for the advice of honest friends and neighbours, *John* despised it ; he looked upon them as fellows of a low genius, poor grovelling mechanics ; *John* reckoned it more honour to have got one favourable verdict, than to have sold a bale of broad-cloth. As for *Nic. Frog*, to say the truth, he was more prudent ; for though he followed his law-suit closely, he neglected not his ordinary business, but was both in court, and in his shop at the proper hours.

C H A P. VIII.

How John discovered, that Hocus had an intrigue with his wife ; and what followed thereupon.

JOHN had not run on a madding so long, had it not been for an extravagant

* Hold the balance of power.

agant bitch of a wife, whom *Hocus* perceiving *John* to be fond of, was resolved to win over to his side. It is a true saying, *That the last man of the parish, that knows of his cuckoldom, is himself.* It was observed by all the neighbourhood, that *Hocus* had dealings with *John's* wife,* that were not so much for his honour ; but this was perceived by *John* a little too late : she was a luxurious jade, loved splendid equipages, plays, treats, and balls, differing very much from the sober manners of her ancestors, and by no means fit for a tradesman's wife. *Hocus* fed her extravagancy (what was still more shameful) with *John's* own money. Every body said, that *Hocus* had a month's mind to her body ; be that as it will, it is matter of fact, that upon all occasions she run out extravagantly on the praise of *Hocus*. When *John* used to be finding fault with his bills, she used to reproach him as ungrateful to his greatest benefactor ; one that had taken so much pains in his law-suit, and retriev

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ed--

* And it was believed, that the general tampered with the parliament,

ed his family from the oppression of old *Lewis Baboon*. A good swingeing sum of *John's* readiest cash went towards building of *Hocus's country house*.^{*} This affair between *Hocus* and Mrs. *Bull* was now so open, that all the world were scandalized at it; *John* was not so clod-pated, but at last he took the hint. † The parson of the parish preaching one day with more zeal than sense against adultery, ‡ Mrs. *Bull* told her husband, that he was a very uncivil fellow to use such coarse language before people of condition; that *Hocus* was of the same mind; and that they would join to have him turned out of his living for using personal reflections. How do you mean, says *John*, by personal reflections? I hope in God, wife, he did not reflect upon you?

^{*} who settled upon him the manor of *Woodstock*, and afterwards entailed that, with 5000*l.* per annum, payable out of the Post-Office, to descend with his honours; over and above this, an immense sum was expended in building *Blenheim House*. About this time (Nov. 6, 1709,)

† Dr. *Henry Sacheverel* preached a sermon against popular resistance of regal authority.

‡ The House of Commons voted this sermon a libel on her majesty and her government, the revolution, the protestant succession, and the parliament; they impeached him of high crimes and misdemeanors; he was silenced for three years, and the sermon burnt by the hangman.

you ? “ No, thank God, my reputation
 “ is too well established in the world to
 “ receive any hurt from such a foul-
 “ mouthed scoundrel as he ; his doc-
 “ trine tends only to make husbands ty-
 “ rants, and wives slaves : Must we be
 “ shut up and husbands left to their lib-
 “ erty ? Very pretty indeed ! a wife
 “ must never go abroad with a Platon-
 “ ick to see a play or a ball ; she must
 “ never stir without her husband ; nor
 “ walk in *Spring-garden* with a cousin.
 “ I do say, husband, and I will stand by
 “ it, that without the innocent freedoms
 “ of life, matrimony would be a most
 “ intolerable state ; and that a wife’s
 “ virtue ought to be the result of her
 “ own reason, and not of her husband’s
 “ government ; for my part, I would
 “ scorn a husband that would be jealous
 “ if he saw a fellow a-bed with me.”*
 All this while *John*’s blood boiled in
 his veins ; he was now confirmed in all
 his suspicions ; jade, bitch, and whore
 were the best words, that *John* gave
 her.† Things went from better to
 worse,

* These proceedings caused a great ferment in the nation.

† The house complained of being *asperged* and *vilified* ;
 opprobrious

worse, till Mrs. *Bull* aimed a *knife at *John*, though *John* threw a bottle† at her head very brutally indeed :‡ and after this, there was nothing but confusion : bottles, glasses, spoons, plates, knives, forks and dishes flew about like dust ; the result of which was, that § Mrs. *Bull* received a bruise in her right side, of which she died half a year after. The bruise imposthumated, and afterwards turned to a stinking ulcer, which made every body shy to come near her ; yet she wanted not the help of many able physicians, who attended very diligently, and did what men of skill could do : but all to no purpose, for her condition was now quite desperate, all regular physicians, and her nearest relations, having given her over.

C H A P.

obprobrious terms were used by both parties, and one had recourse to

* *military power*, because it was assaulted by the other with

† *tumult and riot*.

‡ The confusion every day encreased : the whig or low church party in the house of commons began to decline ; after much contention and debate

§ the parliament was prorogued,

C H A P. IX.

*How some quacks undertook to cure Mrs. Bull of her ulcer.**

THERE is nothing so impossible in nature, but mountebanks will undertake ; nothing so incredible, but they will affirm : Mrs. *Bull*'s condition was looked upon as desperate by all the men of art ; but there were those, that bragged they had an infallible ointment and plaister, which being applied to the sore, would cure it in a few days ; at the same time they would give her a pill, that would purge off all her bad humours, sweeten her blood, and rectify her disturbed imagination. In spite of all applications, the patient grew worse every day ; she stunk so, no body durst come within a stone's throw of her, except those quacks who attended her close, and apprehended no danger. If one asked them, how Mrs. *Bull* did ? Better and better, said they ; the parts heal,

* and notwithstanding many attempts to prolong it, particularly some difficulties started by the Lord

heal, and her constitution mends ; if she submits to our government, she will be abroad in a little time. Nay, it is reported, that they wrote to her friends in the country, that she should dance a jig next *October* in *Westminster-Hall*, and that her illness had been, chiefly owing to bad physicians. At last, * one of them was sent for in great haste, his patient grew worse and worse : when he came, he affirmed that it was a gross mistake, and that she was never in a fairer way : bring hither the salve, says he, and give a plentiful draught of my cordial. As he was applying his ointments, and administering the cordial, the patient gave up the ghost, to the great confusion of the quack, and the great joy of *Bull* and his friends. The quack flung away out of the house in great disorder, and swore there was foul play, for he was sure his medicines were infallible. Mrs. *Bull* having died without any signs of repentance or devotion, the clergy would hardly allow her a christian burial. The relations had once resolved to sue *John* for the murder,

* Chancellor, it was dissolved on the 21 Sept. 1710.

murder, but considering better of it, and that such a trial would rip up old sores, and discover things not so much to the reputation of the deceased, they dropt their design. She left no will, only there was found in her strong box the following words wrote on a Scrip of paper, *My curse on John Bull, and all my posterity, if ever they come to any composition with the Lord Strutt.*

She left him three daughters, whose *names were *Polemia, Discordia, and Usuria.*

C H A P. X.

Of John Bull's second wife, and the † good advice that she gave him.

J O H N quickly got the better of his grief and seeing that neither his constitution, or the affairs of his family could

* War, faction, and usury.

† The new parliament, which was averse to the war, made

could permit him to live in an unmarried state, he resolved to get him another wife; a cousin of his last wife's was proposed, but *John* would have no more of the breed: in short, he wedded a sober country gentlewoman, of a good family, and a plentiful fortune, the reverse of the other in her temper; not but that she loved money, for she was saving, and applied her fortune to pay *John's* clamorous debts, that the unfrugal methods of his last wife, and this ruinous law-suit, had brought him into. One day, as she had got her husband in a good humour, she talked to him after the following manner. * “ My dear, “ since I have been your wife, I have “ observed great abuses and disorders “ in your family; your servants are “ mutinous and quarrelsome, and cheat “ you most abominably; your cook- “ maid is in a combination with your “ butcher, poulterer, and fishmonger: “ your butler purloins your liquor, and “ the brewer sells you hogwash; your “ baker

* a representation of the mismanagement in the several offices, particularly those for victualling and cloathing the navy and army;

“ baker cheats both in weight and in
 “ tale ; even your milk-woman and
 “ your nursery-maid have a fellow-feel-
 “ ing ; your taylor, instead of shreds,
 “ cabbages whole yards of cloth ; be-
 “ sides, leaving such long scores, and
 “ not going to market with ready mon-
 “ ey, forces us to take bad ware of the
 “ tradesman at their own price. You
 “ have not posted your books these ten
 “ years ; how is it possible for a man of
 “ business to keep his affairs even in
 “ the world at this rate ? Pray God this
 “ *Hocus* be honest : would to God you
 “ would look over his bills, and see
 “ how matters stand between *Frog* and
 “ you :* prodigious sums are spent in
 “ this law-suit, and more must be bor-
 “ rowed of scriveners and usurers at
 “ heavy interest. Besides, my dear,
 “ let me beg of you to lay aside that
 “ wild project of leaving your business
 “ to turn lawyer, for which, let me tell
 “ you, nature never designed you. Be-
 “ lieve me, these rogues do but flatter,
 “ that they may pick your pocket ; ob-
 “ serve what a parcel of hungry ragged
 D “ fellows

* and of the sums that had been expended on the war,

“ fellows live by your cause ; to be sure
“ they will never make an end of it ;
“ I foresee this haunt, you have got
“ about the courts, will one day or
“ other bring your family to beggary.
“ Consider, my dear, how indecent it
“ is to abandon your shop, and follow
“ pettifoggers ; the habit is so strong
“ upon you, that there is hardly a plea
“ between two country esquires about
“ a barren acre upon a common, but
“ you draw yourself in as bail, surety
“ or solicitor.”* *John* heard her all this
while with patience, till she pricked his
maggot, and touched him in the tender
point ; then he broke out into a violent
passion, “ What, I not fit for a lawyer !
“ let me tell you, my clodpated rela-
“ tions spoiled the greatest genius in
“ the world, when they bred me a
“ mechanick. Lord *Strutt*, and his old
“ rogue of a grandfire, have found to
“ their cost, that I can manage a law-
“ suit as well as another.” “ I don’t
“ deny what you say, replied *Mrs. Bull*,
“ nor do I call in question your parts ;
“ but, I say, it does not suit with your
“ circumstances :

* which was however still a favourite with the people,

“ circumstances : you and your prede-
 “ cessors have lived in good reputation
 “ among your neighbours by this same
 “ cloathing-trade, and it were madness
 “ to leave it off. Besides, there are
 “ few that know all the tricks and
 “ cheats of these lawyers ; does not
 “ your own experience teach you, how
 “ they have drawn you on from one
 “ term to another, and how you have
 “ danced the round of all the courts,
 “ still flattering you with a final issue,
 “ and, for aught I can see, your cause
 “ is not a bit clearer than it was seven
 “ years ago.” “ I will be damn’d, says
 “ *John*, if I accept of any composition
 “ from *Strutt* or his grandfather ; I’ll
 “ rather wheel about the streets an en-
 “ gine to grind knives and scissars ;
 “ however, I’ll take your advice, and
 “ look over my accompts.”

C H A P.

C H A P. XI.

How John looked over his attorney's bill.

WHEN John first brought out the bills, the surprize of all the family was unexpressible at the prodigious dimensions of them ; they would have measured with the best bale of cloth in John's shop. Fees to judges, puny judges, clerks, prothonotaries, philizers, chirographers, under-clerks, proclamators, council, witnesses, jury-men, marshals, tipstaffs, cryers, porters ; for enrollings, exemplifications, bails, vouchers, returns, caveats, examinations, filings of writs, entries, declarations, replications, recordats, *noli prosequi's*, *certiorari's*, *mittimus's*, demurrers, special verdicts, informations, *scire facias*, *superfedeas*, *habeas corpus*, coach-hire, treating of witnesses, &c. " Verrily, says John, there are a prodigious number of learned words in this law ; what a pretty science it is ! " Ay ! but husband, you have paid for every syllable and letter of these fine words ; " bless

“ bless me, what immense sums are at
 “ the bottom of the accompt !” *John*
 spent several weeks in looking over
 his bills, and by comparing and stating
 his accompts he discovered, that, be-
 sides the extravagance of every article,
 he had been egregiously cheated ; that
 he had paid for council that were never
 fee’d, for writs that were never drawn,
 for dinners that were never dressed,
 and journeys that were never made : In
 short, that the tradesmen, lawyers, and
Frog, had agreed to throw the burden
 of the law-suit upon his shoulders.

C H A P. XII.

*How John grew angry, and resolved to
 accept a composition ;* and what meth-
 ods were practised by the lawyers for
 keeping him from it.*

WELL might the learned *Daniel*
Burgefs say, that a law-suit is a
 D 2. suit.

* when at length peace was thought to be eligible upon
 more moderate terms, a treaty was entered into by,

suit for life. He that sows his grain upon marble, will have many a hungry belly before harvest. This *John* felt by woeful experience. *John's* cause was a good milch cow, and many a man subsisted his family out of it. However *John* began to think it high time to look about him. He had a cousin in the country, one Sir **Roger Bold*, whose predecessors had been bred up to the law, and knew as much of it as any body ; but having left off the profession for some time, they took great pleasure in compounding law-suits among their neighbours, for which they were the aversion of the gentlemen of the long robe, and at perpetual war with all the country attorneys. *John* put his cause in Sir *Roger's* hands, desiring him to make the best of it : the news had no sooner reached the ears of the lawyers, but they were all in an uproar. They brought all the rest of the tradesmen upon *John* : † *Squire South*

† *Robert Harley*, afterward Earl of *Oxford*, who was made treasurer instead of the Lord *Godolphin*, and there was now not only a new parliament, but a new ministry.

† the measure was opposed by the allies and the general :

South swore he was betrayed, that he would starve before he compounded; *Frog* said he was highly wronged; even lying *Ned* the chimney-sweeper, and *Tom* the dustman complained, that their interest was sacrificed. The lawyers, solicitors, *Hocus*, and his clerks, were all up in arms, at the news of the composition;* they abused him and his wife most shamefully. “You silly, “awkward, ill-bred, country-fow, (quoth “one) have you no more manners than “to rail at *Hocus*, that has saved that “clod-pated numskull’d ninny-hammer “of yours from ruin, and all his family? It is well known, how he has “rose early and sat up late to make “him easy, when he was sitting at every ale-house in town. I knew his “last wife; she was a woman of breeding, good humour and complaisance; “knew how to live in the world: as “for you, you look like a puppet “moved by clock-work; your cloaths “hang upon you, as though they were “upon tenter-hooks, and you come “into

* the house of commons was censured as totally ignorant of business;

“ into a room as if you were going to
“ steal away a piss-pot : get you gone
“ into the country to look after your
“ mother’s poultry, to milk the cows,
“ churn the butter, and dress up nose-
“ gays for a holyday, and not meddle
“ with matters, which you know no
“ more of, than the sign-post before
“ your door : it is well known, that
“ *Hocus* had an established reputation ;
“ he never swore an oath, nor told a
“ lie in all his life ; he is grateful to
“ his benefactors faithful to his friends,
“ liberal to his dependants, and dutiful
“ to his superiors ; he values not your
“ money more than the dust under his
“ feet, but he hates to be abused.
“ Once for all, Mrs. *Mynx*, leave off
“ talking of *Hocus*, or I will pull out
“ those saucer eyes of yours, and make
“ that redstreak country face look as
“ raw as an ox-cheek upon a butcher’s
“ stall : remember, I say, that there
“ are pillories and ducking stools.”
With this, away they flung, leaving
Mrs. *Bull* no time to reply. No stone
was left unturned to fright *John* from
his

his composition: * sometimes they spread reports at coffee-houses, that *John* and his wife were run mad; that they intended to give up house, and make over all their estate to *Lewis Baboon*; that *John* had been often heard talking to himself, and seen in the streets without shoes or stockings; that he did nothing from morning till night but beat his servants, after having been the best master alive: as for his wife, she was a mere natural. Sometimes *John's* house was beset with a whole regiment of attorney's clerks, bailiffs and bailiffs-followers, and other small retainers of the law, who threw stones at his windows, and dirt at himself, as he went along the street. When *John* complained of want of ready money to carry on his suit, they advised him to pawn his plate and jewels, and that *Mrs. Bull* should sell her linen and wearing-cloaths.

C H A P.

* and it was said, that the nation would at last be sacrificed to the ambition of *France*.

C H A P. XIII.

*Mrs. Bull's vindication of the indispensable duty of cuckoldom, incumbent upon wives in case of the tyranny, infidelity, or insufficiency of husbands: being a full answer to the doctor's sermon against adultery.**

JOHN found daily fresh proofs of the infidelity and bad designs of his deceased wife; amongst other things, one day looking over his cabinet, he found the following paper.

IT is evident that matrimony is founded upon an *original contract*, whereby the wife makes over the right she has by the law of nature to the *concubitus vagus*, in favour of the husband; by which he acquires the property of all her posterity. But then the obligation is mutual: and where the contract is broken on one side, it ceases to bind on the other. Where there is a right, there

*The tories' representation of the speeches at Sacheverel's trial.

there must be a power to maintain it, and to punish the offending party. This power I affirm to be that original right, or rather that indispensable duty of cuckoldom, lodged in all wives in the cases above-mentioned. No wife is bound by any law, to which herself has not consented: all œconomical government is lodged originally in the husband and wife, the executive part being in the husband; both have their privileges secured to them by law and reason: but will any man infer from the husband's being invested with the executive power, that the wife is deprived of her share, and that which is the principal branch of it, the original right of cuckoldom? And that she has no remedy left, but *preces et lachrymæ*, or an appeal to a supreme court of judicature? No less frivolous are the arguments, that are drawn from the general appellations and terms of husband and wife. A husband denotes several different sorts of magistracy, according to the usages and customs of different climates and countries. In some eastern nations it signifies a tyrant, with the absolute power of
life

life and death : in *Turkey* it denotes an arbitrary governor, with power of perpetual imprisonment : in *Italy* it gives the husband the power of poison and padlocks : in the countries of *England*, *France*, and *Holland*, it has a quite different meaning, implying a free and equal government, securing to the wife in certain cases the liberty of cuckoldom, and the property of pin-money, and separate maintenance. So that the arguments drawn from the terms of husband and wife are fallacious, and by no means fit to support a tyrannical doctrine, as that of absolute unlimited chastity, and conjugal fidelity.

The general exhortations to chastity in wives are meant only for rules in ordinary cases, but they naturally suppose three conditions of ability, justice, and fidelity in the husband : such an unlimited, unconditioned fidelity in the wife could never be supposed by reasonable men ; it seems a reflection upon the church, to charge her with doctrines that countenance oppression.

This

This doctrine of the original right of cuckoldom, is congruous to the law of nature, which is superior to all human laws, and for that I dare appeal to all wives : it is much to the honour of our *English* wives, that they have never given up that *fundamental point* ; and that though in former ages they were muffled up in darkness and superstition, yet that notion seemed engraven on their minds, and the impression so strong, that nothing could impair it.

To assert the illegality of cuckoldom upon any pretence whatsoever, were to cast odious colours upon the married state, to blacken the necessary means of perpetuating families : such laws can never be supposed to have been designed to defeat the very end of matrimony, the propagation of mankind. I call them necessary means ; for in many cases what other means are left ? Such a doctrine wounds the honour of families, unsettles the titles to kingdoms, honours, and estates ; for if the actions from which such settlements spring were illegal, all that is built upon them must be

E

so

so too : but the last is absurd, therefore the first must be so likewise. What is the cause that *Europe* groans at present under the heavy load of a cruel and expensive war, but the tyrannical custom of a certain nation, and the scrupulous nicety of a silly Queen,* in not exercising this indispensable duty of cuckoldom, whereby the kingdom might have had an heir, and a controverted succession might have been avoided ? These are the effects of the narrow maxims of your clergy, *That one must not do evil, that good may come of it.*

The assertors of this indefeasible right, and *jus divinum* of matrimony, do all in their hearts favour gallants, and the pretenders to married women ; for if the true legal foundation of the married state be once sapped, and instead thereof tyrannical maxims introduced, what must follow but elopements instead of secret and peaceable cuckoldom ?

From all that has been said, one may
clearly

* The Queen of Charles II. of *Spain*, upon whose death without issue, the war broke out.

clearly perceive the absurdity of the doctrine of this seditious, discontented, hot-headed, ungifted, unedifying preacher, asserting, *That the grand security of the matrimonial state, and the pillar upon which it stands, is founded upon the wife's belief of an absolute unconditional fidelity to the husband's bed* : by which bold assertion he strikes at the root, digs the foundation, and removes the basis, upon which the happiness of a married state is built. As for his personal reflections, I would gladly know who are those *wanton wives* he speaks of ? who are those ladies of high stations, that he so boldly traduces in his sermon ? It is pretty plain, who these aspersions are aimed at, for which he deserves the pillory or something worse.

In confirmation of this doctrine of the indispensable duty of cuckoldom, I could bring the example of the wisest wives in all ages, who, by these means, have preserved their husband's families from ruin and oblivion by want of posterity : but what has been said, is a sufficient

cient ground for punishing this pragmatical parson.

C H A P. XIV.

*The two great parties of wives, the * Devoto's and the Hitts.*

THE doctrine of unlimited chastity and fidelity in wives was universally espoused by all husbands ; who went about the country, and made the wives sign papers, signifying their utter detestation and abhorrence of Mrs. Bull's wicked doctrine of the indispensable duty of cuckoldom. Some yielded, others refused to part with their native liberty ; which gave rise to two great parties amongst the wives, the *Devoto's* and the *Hitts*. Though it must be owned, the distinction was more nominal than real ; for the *Devoto's* would abuse freedoms

* Those who were for and against the doctrine of non-resistance.

freedoms sometimes ; and those who were distinguished by the name of *Hitts*, were often very honest. At the same time there came out an ingenious treatise with the title of *Good advice to husbands* ; in which they are counselled not to trust too much to their wives owning the doctrine of unlimited conjugal fidelity, and so to neglect family duty, and a due watchfulness over the manners of their wives ; that the greatest security to husbands was a vigorous constitution, good usage of their wives, and keeping them from temptation ; many husbands having been sufferers by their trusting too much to general professions, as was exemplified in the case of a foolish and negligent husband, who trusting to the efficacy of this principle, was undone by his wife's elopement from him.

C H A P. XV.

*An Account of the conference between
Mrs. Bull and Don Diego.*

THE lawyers, as their last effort to put off the composition, sent **Don Diego* to *John*. *Don Diego* was a very worthy gentleman, a friend to *John*, his mother, and present wife ; and therefore supposed to have some influence over her : he had been ill used himself by *John's* lawyers, but, because of some † animosity to sir *Roger*, was against the composition : ‡ the conference between him and *Mrs. Bull* was word for word as follows.

Don Diego. Is it possible, cousin *Bull*, that you can forget the honourable

* Amongst other obstacles to the treaty was the opposition of the Earl of *Nottingham*, a tory nobleman, who had great influence in the house of commons.

† The cause of his animosity, from which this conduct is supposed to proceed, was Mr. *Harley's* being chosen to succeed him as principal secretary of state, when he was removed from that office in the year 1704.

‡ He expostulated against the peace with great warmth in the house, when the queen was present *incog*.

ble maxims of the family you are come of, and break your word with three of the honestest best-meaning persons in the world, esquire *South*, *Frog*, and *Hocus*, that have sacrificed their interest to yours? It is base to take advantage of their simplicity and credulity, and leave them in the lurch at last.

Mrs. *Bull*. I am sure they have left my family in a bad condition, we have hardly money to go to market; and nobody will take our words for sixpence. A very fine spark this esquire *South*! My husband took him in, a dirty, snotty-nosed boy; it was the business of half the servants to attend him, * the rogue did bawl and make such a noise: sometimes he fell in the fire, and burnt his face, sometimes broke his shins clambering over the benches, often pissed a bed, and always came in so dirty, as if he had been dragged through the kennel at a boarding-school. He lost his money at chuck-farthing, shuffle-cap, and all fours; sold his books, pawned his linen,

* Something relating to the manners of a great prince, superstition, love of operas, shows, &c.

en, which we were always forced to redeem. Then the whole generation of him are so in love with bagpipes and puppet-shews ! I wish you knew what my husband has paid at the pastry-cook's and confectioner's for *Naples* biscuit, tarts, custards, and sweet-meats. All this while my husband considered him as a gentleman of a good family, that had fallen into decay, gave him good education, and has settled him in a good creditable way of living, having procured him by his interest, one of the best places of the country : and what return think you, does this fine gentleman make us ? He will hardly give me or my husband a good word, or a civil expression : * instead of *sir* and *madam* (which, though I say it, is our due) he calls us *goody* and *gaffer* such-a-one : says, he did us a great deal of honour to board with us ; huffs and dings at such a rate, because we will not spend the little we have left to get him the title and estate of lord *Strutt* ; and then, forsooth, we shall have the honour to be his woolen-drappers. Besides, esquire *South* will be esquire

* Something relating to forms and titles.

esquire *South* still ; fickle, proud, and ungrateful. If he behaves himself so, when he depends on us for his daily bread, can any man say, what he will do when he is got above the world ?

D. Diego. And would you lose the honour of so noble and generous an undertaking ? Would you rather accept this scandalous composition, and trust that old rogue, *Lewis Baboon* ?

Mrs. Bull. Look you, friend *Diego*, if we law it on, till *Lewis* turns honest, I am afraid our credit will run low at *Blackwell-hall*. I wish every man had his own ; but I still say, that lord *Strutt's* money shines as bright and chinks as well as esquire *South's*. I don't know any other hold, that we tradesmen have of these great folks, but their interest ; buy dear and sell cheap, and I'll warrant ye you will keep your customer. The worst is, that lord *Strutt's* servants have got such a haunt about that old rogue's shop, that it will cost us many a firkin of strong beer to bring them back again : and the longer they are in a bad road,

road, the harder it will be to get them out of it.

D. Diego. But poor *Frog*, what has he done ! On my conscience, if there be an honest, sincere man in the world, it is that *Frog*:

Mrs. Bull. I think, I need not tell you how much *Frog* has been obliged to our *family from his childhood ; he carries his head high now, but he had never been the man he is, without our help. Ever since the commencement of this law-suit it has been the business of *Hocus*, in sharing our expenses, to plead for *Frog*. “ Poor *Frog* (says he) “ is in hard circumstances, he has a numerous family, and lives from hand to “ mouth ; his children don’t eat a bit “ of good victuals from one year’s end “ to the other, but live upon salt her- “ ring, four crud, and borecole ; he “ does his utmost, poor fellow, to keep “ things even in the world, and has ex- “ erted himself beyond his ability in this “ law-suit ;

* On the other side complaint was made of the unequal burden of the war.

“law-suit ; but he really has not where-
 “withal to go on. What signifies this
 “hundred pounds ? place it upon your
 “side of the account ; it is a great deal
 “to poor *Frog*, and a trifle to you.”
 This has been *Hocus*’s constant lan-
 guage, and I am sure he has had obliga-
 tions enough to us to have acted ano-
 ther part.

D. Diego. No doubt *Hocus* meant
 all this for the best, but he is a tender-
 hearted, charitable man ; *Frog* is in-
 deed in hard circumstances.

Mrs. Bull. Hard circumstances ! I
 swear, this is provoking to the last de-
 gree.* All the time of the law-suit, as
 fast as I have mortgaged, *Frog* has pur-
 chased. From a plain tradesman with
 a shop, ware-house, and a country hut,
 with a dirty fish-pond at the end of it,
 he is now grown a very rich country
 gentleman, with a noble landed estate,
 noble palaces, manors, parks, gardens,
 and farms, finer than any we were ever
 master

* and of the acquisitions of the *Dutch in Flanders* : dur-
 ing these debates the house took into consideration .

master of. Is it not strange, when my husband disbursed great sums every term, *Frog* should be purchasing some new farm or manor? So that if this law-suit lasts, he will be far the richest man in his country. What is worse than all this, he steals away my customers every day: twelve of the richest and the best have left my shop by his persuasion, and whom, to my certain knowledge, he has under bonds never to return again: judge you if this be neighbourly dealing.

D. Diego. *Frog* is indeed pretty close in his dealings, but very honest: you are so touchy, and take things so hotly, I am sure there must be some mistake in this.

Mrs. Bull. A plaguy one indeed! You know, and have often told me of it, how *Hecus*, and those rogues kept my husband *John Bull* drunk for five years together with punch and strong waters; I am sure he never went one night sober to bed, till they got him to sign the strangest deed, that ever you saw

saw in your life. The methods they took to manage him I'll tell you another time ; at present, I'll read only the writing.

ARTICLES of AGREEMENT
betwixt JOHN BULL, Clothier, and
*NICHOLAS FROG, Linen-draper.**

I. THAT for maintaining the ancient good correspondence and friendship between the said parties, *I Nicholas Frog* do solemnly engage, and promise to keep peace in *John Bull's* family ; that neither his wife, children, nor servants give him any trouble, disturbance, or molestation whatsoever, but to oblige them all to do their duty quietly in their respective stations : and where

F as,

* a treaty which had been concluded by the lord *Townshend* at the *Hague* between the Queen and the States in 1709, for securing the protestant succession, and for settling a barrier for *Holland* against *France*. And it was resolved, that several articles of this treaty were destructive to the trade, and interest of *Great Britain*, that lord *Townshend* had no authority to agree to them, and that he and all those, who advised ratifying the treaty, were enemies to their country.

as, the said *John Bull*, from the assured confidence, that he has in my friendship, has appointed me executor of his last will and testament, and guardian to his children, I do undertake for me, my heirs and assigns, to see the same duly executed and performed, and that it shall be unalterable in all its parts by *John Bull*, or any body else: for that purpose it shall be lawful and allowable for me to enter his house at any hour of the day or night; to break open bars, bolts, and doors, chests of drawers, and strong boxes, in order to secure the peace of my friend *John Bull's* family, and to see his will duly executed.

II. In consideration of which kind neighbourly office of *Nicholas Frog*, in that he has been pleased to accept of the aforesaid trust, I *John Bull* having duly considered, that my friend *Nicholas Frog* at this time lives in a marshy soil and unwholesome air, infested with fogs and damps destructive of the health of himself, wife, and children; to bind and oblige me, my heirs and assigns, to purchase for the said *Nicholas Frog*,
with

with the best and readiest of my cash, bonds, mortgages, goods, and chattels, a landed estate, with parks, gardens, palaces, rivers, fields, and outlets, consisting of as large extent, as the said *Nicholas Frog* shall think fit. And whereas the said *Nicholas Frog* is at present hemmed in too close by the grounds of *Lewis Baboon*, master of the science of defence, I the said *John Bull* do oblige myself, with the readiest of my cash, to purchase and enclose the said grounds, for as many fields and acres as the said *Nicholas* shall think fit; to the intent that the said *Nicholas* may have free egress and regress, without lett or molestation, suitable to the demands of himself and family.

III. Furthermore, the said *John Bull* obliges himself to make the country neighbours of *Nicholas Frog* allot a certain part of yearly rents to pay for the repairs of the said landed estate, to the intent that his good friend *Nicholas Frog* may be eased of all charges.

IV. And whereas the said *Nicholas Frog*

Frog did contract with the deceased lord *Strutt* about certain liberties, privileges, and immunities, formerly in the possession of the said *John Bull*; I the said *John Bull* do freely by these presents renounce, quit, and make over to the said *Nicholas*, the liberties, privileges, and immunities contracted for, in as full a manner, as if they never had belonged to me.

V. The said *John Bull* obliges himself, his heirs and assigns, not to sell one rag of broad or coarse cloth to any gentleman within the neighbourhood of the said *Nicholas*, except in such quantities and such rates, as the said *Nicholas* shall think fit.

Signed and sealed,

JOHN BULL.
NIC. FROG.

The reading of this paper put Mrs *Bull* in such a passion, that she fell downright into a fit, and they were forced to

to give her a good quantity of the spirit of hartshorn before she recovered.

D. Diego. Why in such a passion, cousin? considering your circumstances at that time, I don't think this such an unreasonable contract. You see *Frog*, for all this, is religiously true to his bargain; he scorns to hearken to any composition without your privacy.

Mrs. Bull. You know the * contrary. Read that letter.

[*Reads the superscription*]

For LEWIS BAROON, master of the noble science of defence.

S I R,

I UNDERSTAND, that you are at this time treating with my friend *John Bull* about restoring the lord *Strutt's* custom, and besides allowing him

F 2

* In the mean time the *Dutch* were secretly negotiating with *France*.

him certain privileges of parks and fish-ponds ; I wonder how you, that are a man that knows the world, can talk with that simple fellow. He has been my bubble these twenty years, and to my certain knowledge understands no more of his own affairs, than a child in swaddling cloaths. I know he has got a sort of a pragmatical filly jade of a wife, that pretends to take him out of my hands : but you and she both will find yourselves mistaken ; I'll find those that shall manage her ; and for him, he dares as well be hanged as make one step in his affairs without my consent. If you will give me what you promised him, I will make all things easy, and stop the deeds of ejection against lord *Strutt* ; if you will not, take what follows : I shall have a good action against you, for pretending to rob me of my bubble. Take this warning from

Your loving friend,

NIC. FROG.

I am told, cousin *Diego*, you are one
of

of those who have undertaken to manage me, and that you have said you will carry a green bag yourself, rather than we shall make an end of our lawsuit: I'll teach them and you too to manage.

D. Diego. For God's sake, madam, why so cholerick? I say, this letter is some forgery; it never entered into the head of that honest man, *Nic. Frog*, to do any such thing.

Mrs. Bull. I can't abide you: you have been railing these twenty years at esquire *South, Frog*, and *Hocus*, calling them rogues and pick-pockets, and now they are turned the honestest fellows in the world. What is the meaning of all this?

D. Diego. Pray tell me how you came to employ this fir *Roger* in your affairs, and not think of your old friend *Diego*?

Mrs. Bull. So, so, there it pinches. To tell you truth, I have employed fir *Roger* in several weighty affairs, and have

have found him trusty and honest, and the poor man always scorned to take a farthing of me. I have abundance that profess great zeal, but they are damnable greedy of the pence. My husband and I are now in such circumstances, that we must be served upon cheaper terms, than we have been.

D. Diego. Well, cousin, I find I can do no good with you; I am sorry that you will ruin yourself by trusting this *sir Roger*.

CHAP. XVI.

*How the guardians of the deceased Mrs. Bull's three daughters came to John, and what advice they gave him; wherein are briefly treated, the characters of the three daughters: also, John Bull's answer to the three guardians.**

I TOLD you in a former chapter, that *Mrs. Bull*, before she departed this

* The debates in parliament were however still continued.

this life, had blessed *John* with three daughters. I need not here repeat their names, neither would I willingly use any scandalous reflections upon young ladies, whose reputations ought to be very tenderly handled; but the characters of these were so well known in the neighbourhood, that it is doing them no injury, to make a short description of them.

* The eldest was a termagant, imperious, prodigal, lewd, profligate wench, as ever breathed: she used to rantipole about the house, pinch the children, kick the servants, and torture the cats and the dogs; she would rob her father's strong box, for money to give the young fellows that she was fond of: she had a noble air, and something great in her mein, but such a noisome infectious breath, as threw all the servants that dressed her, into consumptions; if she smelt to the freshest nosegay, it would shrivel and wither as it had been blighted: she used to come home in her cups, and break the china and the looking-

* *Polemia*, War,

looking-glasses ; and was of such an irregular temper, and so entirely given up to her passion, that you might argue as well with the *North* wind, as with her ladyship : so expensive, that the income of three dukedoms was not enough to supply her extravagance. *Hocus* loved her best, believing her to be his own, got upon the body of Mrs. *Bull*.

* The second daughter, born a year after her sister, was a peevish, froward, ill-conditioned creature as ever was, ugly as the devil, lean, haggard, pale, with saucer eyes, a sharp nose, and hunch-backed : but active, sprightly, and diligent about her affairs. Her ill complexion was occasioned by her bad diet, which was coffee, morning, noon, and night : she never rested quietly a-bed ; but used to disturb the whole family with shrieking out in her dreams, and plague them next day with interpreting them, for she took them all for gospel : she would cry out murder, and disturb the whole neighbourhood ; and when *John* came running down stairs to

* *Discordia*, Faction.

to enquire what the matter was : nothing, forsooth, only her maid had stuck a pin wrong in her gown : she turned away one servant, for putting too much oil in her sallad, and another for putting too little salt in her water-gruel ; but such, as by flattery, had procured her esteem, she would indulge in the greatest crime. Her father had two coachmen ; when one was in the coach-box, if the coach swung but the least to one side, she used to shriek so loud, that all the street concluded she was overturned ; but though the other was eternally drunk, and had overturned the whole family, she was very angry with her father for turning him away. Then she used to carry tales and stories from one to another, till she had set the whole neighbourhood together by the ears ; and this was the only diversion she took pleasure in. She never went abroad, but she brought home such a bundle of monstrous lies, as would have amazed any mortal but such as knew her : of a whale that had swallowed a fleet of ships ; of the lions being let out of the *Tower* to destroy the protestant religion ;

religion ; of the Pope's being seen in a brandy-shop at *Wapping* ; and of a prodigious strong man, that was going to shove down the cupola of *St. Paul's* ; of three millions of five pound pieces, that esquire *South* had found under an old wall ; of blazing stars, flying dragons, and abundance of such stuff. All the servants in the family made high court to her, for she domineered there, and turned out and in whom she pleased ; only there was an old grudge between her and sir *Roger*, whom she mortally hated, and used to hire fellows to squirt kennel water upon him, as he passed along the streets ; so that he was forced constantly to wear a furtout of oiled cloth, by which means he came home pretty clean, except where the furtout was a little scanty.

* As for the third, she was a thief, and a common mercenary prostitute, and that without any sollicitation from nature, for she owned she had no enjoyment. She had no respect of persons, a prince or a porter was all one, according

* *Usuria, Usury.*

according as they paid ; yea, she would leave the finest gentleman in the world to go to an ugly pocky fellow for sixpence more. In the practice of her profession she had amassed vast magazines of all sorts of things ; she had above five hundred suits of fine cloaths, and yet went abroad like a cinder-wench : she robbed and starved all the servants, so that nobody could live near her.

So much for *John's* three daughters, which you will say were rarities to be fond of : yet nature will shew itself ; nobody could blame their relations for taking care of them : and therefore it was that *Hocus*, with two other of the guardians, thought it their duty to take care of the interest of the three girls, and give *John* their best advice before he compounded the law-suit.

Hocus. What makes you so shy of late, my good friend ? There's nobody loves you better than I, nor has taken more pains in your affairs : as I hope to be saved, I would do any thing to

G

serve

serve you ; I would crawl upon all four to serve you ; I have spent my health and paternal estate in your service. I have, indeed, a small pittance left, with which I might retire, and with as good a conscience as any man ; but the thoughts of this disgraceful composition so touches me to the quick, that I cannot sleep : after I had brought the cause to the last stroke, that one verdict more had quite ruined old *Lewis*, and lord *Strutt*, and put you in the quiet possession of every thing ; then to compound ! I cannot bear it. This cause was my favourite, I had set my heart upon it ; it is like an only child ; I cannot endure it should miscarry : for God's sake consider only to what a dismal condition old *Lewis* is brought. He is at an end of all his cash ; his attorneys have hardly one trick left ; they are at an end of all their *chicane* ; besides, he has both his law and his daily bread now upon trust. Hold out only one term longer, and I'll warrant you, before the next we shall have him in the *Fleet*. I'll bring him to the pillory ; his ears shall pay for his perjuries.

For

For the love of God don't compound : let me be damned if you have a friend in the world, that loves you better than I : there is nobody can say am I covetous, or that I have any interest to pursue, but yours.

2d Guardian. There is nothing so plain, as that this *Lewis* has a design to ruin all his neighbouring tradesman ; and at this time he has such a prodigious income by his trade of all kinds, that if there is not some stop put to his exorbitant riches, he will monopolize every thing ; no body will be able to sell a yard of drapery or mercery ware but himself. I then hold it adviseable, that you continue the law-suit, and burst him at once. My concern for the three poor motherless children obliges me to give you this advice ; for their estates, poor girls ! depend upon the success of this cause.

3d Guardian. I own this writ of ejectment has cost dear ; but then consider it is a jewel well worth the purchasing at the price of all you have.

None

None but Mr. *Bull*'s declared enemies can say, he has any other security for his cloathing trade, but the ejection of lord *Strutt*. The only question then that remains to be decided, is, who shall stand the expences of the suit? To which the answer is as plain; who but he, that is to have the advantage of the sentence? When esquire *South* has got possession of his title and honour, is not *John Bull* to be his clothier? Who then, but *John*, ought to put him in possession? Ask but any indifferent gentleman, who ought to bear his charges at law? and he will readily answer, his tradesmen. I do therefore affirm, and I will go to death with it, that, being his clothier, you ought to put him in quiet possession of his estate, and, with the same generous spirit you have begun it, compleat the good work. If you persist in the bad measures you are now in, what must become of the three poor orphans? My heart bleeds for the poor girls.

John Bull. You are all very eloquent persons; but give me leave to
tell

tell you, you express a great deal more concern for the three girls than for me ; I think my interest ought to be considered in the first place. As for you, *Hocus*, I can't but say you have managed my law-suit with great address, and much to my honour ; and though I say it, you have been well paid for it. Why must the burthen be taken off *Frog's* back, and laid upon my shoulders ? He can drive about his own parks and fields in his gilt chariot, when I have been forced to mortgage my estate : his note will go farther than my bond. Is it not matter of fact, that from the richest tradesman in all the country, I am reduced to beg and borrow from scriveners and usurers, that suck the heart, blood, and guts out of me ? and what is all this for ? Did you like *Frog's* countenance better than mine ? Was not I your old friend and relation ? Have I not presented you nobly ? Have I not clad your whole family ? Have you not had an hundred yards at a time of the finest cloth in my shop ? Why must the rest of the tradesmen be not only indemnified from char-

ges, but forbid to go on with their own business, and what is more their concern than mine? As to holding out this term, I appeal to your own conscience, has not that been your constant discourse these six years, *One term more, and old Lewis goes to pot.* If thou art so fond of my cause, be generous for once, and lend me a brace of thousands. Ah *Hocus! Hocus!* I know thee; not a fous to save me from jail, I trow. Look ye, gentlemen, I have lived with credit in the world, and it grieves my heart, never to stir out of my doors but to be pulled by the sleeve by some rascally dun or other? “Sir, remember
“my bill: there’s a small concern of a
“thousand pounds, I hope you think
“on’t, Sir.” And to have these usurers transact my debts at coffee-houses, and ale-houses, as if I were going to break up shop. Lord! that ever the rich, the generous *John Bull*, clothier, the envy of all his neighbours, should be brought to compound his debts for five shillings in the pound; and to have his name in an advertisement for a statute of bankrupt. The thought of it makes
me

me mad. I have read somewhere in the *Apocrypha*, that one should not consult with a woman touching her of whom she is jealous ; nor with a merchant concerning exchange ; nor with a buyer or selling ; nor with an unmerciful man of kindness, &c. I could have added one thing more, nor with an attorney about compounding a law-suit. The ejectment of lord *Strutt* will never do. The evidence is crimp ; the witnesses swear backwards and forwards, and contradict themselves ; and his tenants stick by him. One tells me, that I must carry on my suit, because *Lewis* is poor ; another, because he is still too rich : whom shall I believe ? I am sure of one thing, that a penny in the purse is the best friend *John* can have at last ; and who can say that this will be the last suit I shall be engaged in ? Besides, if this ejectment were practicable, is it reasonable, that when esquire *South* is losing his money to sharpers and pick-pockets, going about the country with fiddlers and buffoons, and squandering his income with hawks and dogs, I should lay out the fruits of my honest industry

industry in a law-suit for him, only upon the hopes of being his clothier? and when the cause is over, I shall not have the benefit of my project for want of money to go to market. Look ye, gentlemen, *John Bull* is but a plain man; but *John Bull* knows when he is ill used. I know the infirmity of our family; we are apt to play the boon companion, and throw away our money in our cups: but it was an unfair thing in you, gentlemen, to take advantage of my weakness, to keep a parcel of roaring bullies about me day and night, with huzzas and hunting-horns, and ringing the changes on butchers cleavers, never let me cool, and make me set my hand to papers, when I could hardly hold my pen. There will come a day of reckoning for all that proceeding. In the mean time, gentlemen, I beg you will let me into my affairs a little, and that you would not grudge me the small remainder of a very great estate.

C H A P.

C H A P. XVII.

Esquire South's message and letter to Mrs. Bull.

THE arguments used by *Hocus*, and the rest of the guardians had hitherto proved insufficient : * *John* and his wife could not be persuaded to bear the expense of *Esquire South's* law-suit. They thought it reasonable, that since he was to have the honour and advantage, he should bear the greatest share of the charges ; and retrench what he lost to sharpers, and spent upon country dances and puppet-plays, to apply it to that use. This was not very grateful to the *Esquire* ; therefore, as the last experiment, he resolved to send † *signior Benenato*, master of his fox-hounds, to *Mrs. Bull*, to try what good he could do

* But as all attempts of the party to proclude the treaty were ineffectual, and complaints were made of the deficiencies of the house of *Austria*, the Archduke sent a message and letter

† by *Prince Eugene*, urging the continuance of the war, and offering to bear a proportion of the expence.

do with her. This signior *Benenato* had all the qualities of a fine gentleman, that were fit to charm a lady's heart ; and if any person in the world could have persuaded her, it was he. But such was her unshaken fidelity to her husband, and the constant purpose of her mind to pursue his interest, that the most refined arts of gallantry that were practised, could not seduce her heart. The necklaces, diamond crosses, and rich bracelets that were offered, she rejected with the utmost scorn and disdain. The musick and serenades, that were given her, sounded more ungratefully in her ears than the noise of a screech-owl ; however, she received esquire *South's* letter by the hands of signior *Benenato* with that respect, which became his quality. The copy of the letter is as follows, in which you will observe, he changes a little his usual style.

M A D A M,

THE writ of ejectment against *Philip Baboon*, (pretended lord *Strutt*) is just ready to pass : there wants but a few

few necessary forms, and a verdict or two more, to put me in the quiet possession of my honour and estate : I question not, but that according to your wonted generosity and goodness you will give it the finishing stroke ; an honour that I would grudge any body but yourself. In order to ease you of some part of the charges, I promise to furnish pen, ink, and paper, provided you pay for the stamps. Besides, I have ordered my stewards to pay out of the readiest and best of my rents, five pounds ten shillings a year, till my suit is finished. I wish you health and happiness, being with due respect,

M A D A M,

Your assured friend,

S O U T H.

What answer Mrs. *Bull* returned to this letter, you shall know in my second part, only they were at a pretty good distance in their proposals ; for as esquire *South* only offered to be at the

the charges of pen, ink, and paper, Mrs. *Bull* refused any more than to lend her barge * to carry his council to *Westminster-hall*.

* This proportion was however thought to be so inconsiderable, that the letter produced no other effect, than the convoy of the forces by the *English* fleet, to *Barcelona*.

15 OCT 61

END OF THE FIRST PART.

Law is a Bottomless Pit :

OR, THE

HISTORY

OF

JOHN BULL.

PUBLISHED

FROM A MANUSCRIPT FOUND IN THE CABI-
NET OF THE FAMOUS SIR H. POLESWORTH,
IN THE YEAR 1712.

SECOND PART.

A NEW EDITION.

B O S T O N :

PRINTED AND SOLD BY JOHN W. FOLSOM,
No. 30, UNION-STREET.

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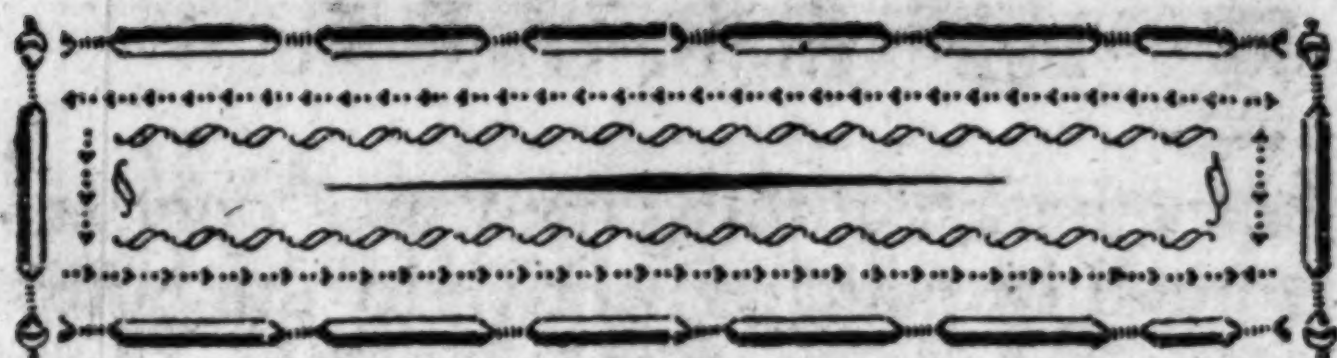
THE PUBLISHER'S
P R E F A C E.

THE world is much indebted to the famous sir Humphrey Polesworth for his ingenious and impartial account of John Bull's lawsuit; yet there is just cause of complaint against him, in that he relates it only by parcels, and won't give us the whole work: This forces me, who am only the publisher, to bespeak the assistance of his friends and acquaintance to engage him to lay aside that stingy humour, and gratify the curiosity of the publick at once. He pleads in excuse, that they are only private memoirs, wrote for his own use, in a loose style, to serve as a help to his ordinary conversation. I represented to him the good reception the first*

* This excuse of sir Humphrey can only relate to the second part, or sequel of the history. See the preface to the first part.

first part had met with ; that though calculated only for the meridian of Grub-street, it was yet taken notice of by the better sort ; that the world was now sufficiently acquainted with John Bull, and interested itself in his concerns. He answered, with a smile, that he had indeed some trifling things to impart, that concerned John Bull's relations and domestic affairs ; if these would satisfy me, he gave me free leave to make use of them, because they would serve to make the history of the law-suit more intelligible. When I had looked over the manuscript, I found likewise some further account of the composition, which perhaps may not be unacceptable to such as have read the former part.

T H E



THE
HISTORY
OF
JOHN BULL.



CHAP. I.

*The character of * John Bull's mother.*

JOHN had a mother whom he loved and honoured extremely ; a discreet, grave, sober, good conditioned, cleanly old gentlewoman as ever lived ; she was none of your cross-grained,
H 2 termagant,

* The Church of *England*.

termagant, scolding jades, that one had as good be hanged as live in the house with, such as are always censuring the conduct, and telling scandalous stories of their neighbours, extolling their own good qualities, and undervaluing those of others. On the contrary, she was of a meek spirit, and as she was strictly virtuous herself, so she always put the best construction upon the words and actions of her neighbours, except where they were irreconcilable to the rules of honesty and decency. She was neither one of your precise *pruders*, nor one of your fantastical old *belles*, that dress themselves like girls of fifteen : as she neither wore a ruff, forehead cloth, nor high crowned hat, so she had laid aside feathers, flowers, and crimpt ribbons in her head-dress, furbelo-scarfs, and hooped-petticoats. She scorned to patch and paint, yet she loved to keep her hands and her face clean. Though she wore no flaunting laced ruffles, she would not keep herself in a constant sweat with greasy flannel : though her hair was not stuck with jewels, she was not ashamed of a diamond cross : she
was

was not like some ladies, hung about with toys and trinkets, tweezer-cases, pocket-glasses, and essence bottles ; she used only a gold watch and an almanack, to mark the hours and the holy-days.

Her furniture was neat and genteel, well fancied with a *bon gout*. As she affected not the grandeur of a state with a canopy, she thought there was no offence in an elbow-chair ; she had laid aside your carving, gilding, and japan work, as being too apt to gather dirt ; but she never could be prevailed upon to part with plain wainscot and clean hangings. There are some ladies, that affect to smell a stink in every thing ; they are always highly perfumed, and continually burning frankincense in their rooms ; she was above such affectation, yet she never would lay aside the use of brooms and scrubbing-brushes, and scrupled not to lay her linen in fresh lavender.

She was no less genteel in her behaviour, well-bred, without affectation, in
the

the due mean between one of your affected curt'fying pieces of formality, and your romps that have no regard to the common rules of civility. There are some ladies, that affect a mighty regard for their relations ; *We must not eat to-day, for my uncle Tom, or my cousin Betty, died this time ten years : Let's have a ball to-night, it is my neighbour such-a-one's birth-day ;* she looked upon all this as grimace ; yet she constantly observed her husband's birth-day, her wedding-day, and some few more.

Though she was a truly good woman, and had a sincere motherly love for her son *John*, yet there wanted not those who endeavoured to create a misunderstanding between them, and they had so far prevailed with him once, that he turned her out of doors,* to his great sorrow, as he found afterwards, for his affairs went on at fixes and sevens.

She was no less judicious in the turn of her conversation and choice of her studies, in which she far exceeded all her

* In the Rebellion of 1641.

her sex : your rakes that hate the company of all sober, grave gentlewomen, would bear hers ; and she would, by her handsome manner of proceeding, sooner reclaim them than some that were more sour and reserved : she was a zealous preacher up of chastity, and *conjugal fidelity* in wives, and by no means a friend to the new-fangled doctrine of the *indispensable duty of cuckoldom* : though she advanced her opinions with a becoming assurance, yet she never ushered them in, as some positive creatures will do, with dogmatical assertions, *This is infallible ; I cannot be mistaken ; None but a rogue can deny it.* It has been observed, that such people are oftner in the wrong than any body.

Though she had a thousand good qualities, she was not without her faults, amongst which one might perhaps reckon too great lenity to her servants, to whom she always gave good counsel, but often too gentle correction. I thought I could not say less of *John Bull's* mother, because she bears a part in the following transactions.

C H A P.

C H A P. II.

*The character of John Bull's * sister Peg, with the quarrels that happened between master and miss in their childhood.*

JOHN had a sister, a poor girl that had been starved at nurse; any body would have guessed miss to have been bred up under the influence of a cruel step-dame, and John to be the fondling of a tender mother. John looked ruddy and plump, with a pair of cheeks like a trumpeter; miss looked pale and wan, as if she had the green sickness; and no wonder, for John was the darling, he had all the good bits, was crammed with good pullet, chicken, pig, goose, and capon, while miss had only a little oatmeal and water, or a dry crust without butter. John had his golden pippins, peaches, and nectarines; poor miss a crab-apple, sloe, or a blackberry. Master lay in the best apartment, with his bed-chamber towards the south sun. Miss lodged in a garret, exposed to the north

* The nation and Church of Scotland.

north wind, which shrivelled her countenance ; however, this usage, though it stunted the girl in her growth, gave her a hardy constitution ; she had life and spirit in abundance, and knew when she was ill used : now and then she would seize upon *John's* commons, snatch a leg of a pullet, or a bit of good beef, for which they were sure to go to fifty cuffs. Master was indeed too strong for her ; but miss would not yield in the least point, but even when master had got her down, she would scratch and bite like a tyger ; when he gave her a cuff on the ear, she would prick him with her knitting-needle. *John* brought a great chain one day to tie her to the bed-post, for which affront, miss aimed a pen-knife at his heart.* In short, these quarrels grew up to rooted averfions ; they gave one another nick-names : she called him *Gundy-guts*, and he called her *lousy Peg* ; though the girl was a tight clever wench as

* *Henry VIII.* to unite the two kingdoms under one sovereign offered his daughter *Mary* to *James V.* of Scotland ; this offer was rejected, and followed by a war : to this event probably the author alludes.

as any was, and thro' her pale looks you might discern spirit and vivacity, which made her not, indeed, a perfect beauty, but something that was agreeable. It was barbarous in parents not to take notice of these early quarrels, and make them live better together, such domestick feuds proving afterwards the occasion of misfortunes to them both. *Peg* had, indeed, some odd humours, and comical antipathy, for which, *John* would jeer her. "What think you of my sister *Peg* (says he) that faints at the sound of an organ, and yet will dance and frisk at the noise of a bagpipe?" "What's that to you, *Gundy-guts*, (quoth *Peg*) every body's to chuse their own musick." Then *Peg* had taken a fancy not to say her *Pater-noster*, which made people imagine strange things of her. Of the three brothers, that have made such a clutter in the world, lord *Peter*, *Martin* and *Jack*, * *Jack* had of late been her inclinations: lord *Peter* she detested: nor did *Martin* stand much better in her good graces, but *Jack* had found the way

* Love of Presbytery.

way to her heart. I have often admired, what charms she discovered in that awkward booby, till I talked with a person that was acquainted with the intrigue, who gave me the following account of it.

C H A P. III.

* Jack's *charms*, or the method by which he gained Peg's heart.

IN the first place, *Jack* was a very young fellow, by much the youngest of the three brothers, and people, indeed, wondered how such a young upstart jackanapes should grow so pert and saucy, and take so much upon him.

Jack bragged of greater abilities than other men ; he was *well-gifted*, as he pretended ; I need not tell you what secret influence that has upon the ladies.

I

Jack

* Character of the Presbyterians.

Jack had a most scandalous tongue, and persuaded *Peg* that all mankind, besides himself, were poxed by that scarlet-faced whore * *Signiora Bubonia*, “As for his brother, lord *Peter*, the
“tokens were evident on him, blotches,
“scabs, and the corona : his brother
“*Martin*, though he was not quite so
“bad, had some nocturnal pains, which
“his friends pretended were only scor-
“butical ; but he was sure it proceeded
“from a worse cause.” By such malicious insinuations, he had possessed the lady, that he was the only man in the world of a sound, pure, and untainted constitution : though there were some that stuck not to say, that *Signior Bubonia* and *Jack* railed at one another, only the better to hide an intrigue ; and, that *Jack* had been found with *Signiora* under his cloak, carrying her home in a dark stormy night,

Jack was a prodigious ogler ; he would ogle you the outside of his eye inward, and the white upward. •

Jack

* The whore of *Babylon*, or the *Pope*.

Jack gave himself out for a man of a great estate in the Fortunate islands : of which the sole property was vested in his person : by this trick he cheated abundance of poor people of small sums, pretending to make over plantations in the said islands ; but when the poor wretches came there with *Jack's* grant, they were beat, mocked, and turned out of doors.

I told you that *Peg* was whimsical, and loved any thing that was particular : in that way, *Jack* was her man, for he neither thought, spoke, dressed, nor acted like other mortals : he was for your *bold strokes*, he railed at fops, though he was himself the most affected in the world ; instead of the common fashion, he would visit his mistress in a mourning cloak, band, short cuffs, and a peaked beard, He invented a way of coming into a room backwards, which, he said, shewed more humility, and less affectation : where other people stood, he sat ; where they sat, he stood ; when he went to court, he used to kick away the state, and sit down by his

his prince cheek by jole : *Confound these states*, says he, *they are a modern invention* : when he spoke to his prince, he always turned his breech upon him : If he was advised to fast for his health, he would eat roast beef ; if he was allowed a more plentiful diet, then he would be sure that day to live upon water-gruel ; he would cry at a wedding, laugh and make jests at a funeral.

He was no less singular in his opinions ; you would have burst your sides to hear him talk of politicks :* “ All
“ government, says he, is founded upon
“ the right distribution of *punishments* :
“ decent executions keep the world in
“ awe ; for that reason the majority of
“ mankind ought to be hanged every
“ year. For example, I suppose the
“ magistrate ought to pass an irreversi-
“ ble sentence upon all *blue eyed chil-*
“ *dren* from the cradle ;† but that there
“ may be some shew of justice in this
“ proceeding, these children ought to
“ be trained up by masters, appointed
“ for

* Absolute predestination.

† Reprobation.

“ for that purpose, to all forts of villa-
 “ ny ; that they may deserve their fate,
 “ and the execution of them may serve
 “ as an object of terror to the rest of
 “ mankind,” As to the giving of *par-*
dons, he had this singular method.*
 That when these wretches had the rope
 about their necks, it should be enquired,
 who believed they should be hanged,
 and who not ? The first were to be par-
 doned, the last hanged out-right. Such
 as were once pardoned, were never to
 be hanged afterwards for any crime
 whatsoever.† He had such skill in phy-
 siognomy, that he would pronounce pe-
 remptorily upon a man’s face, *That fel-*
low, says he, do what he will, can’t avoid
hanging ; he has a hanging look. By
 the same art, he would prognosticate a
 principality to a scoundrel.

He was no less particular in the
 choice of his studies ; they were gene-
 rally bent towards exploded chimeras,‡
 the *perpetuum mobile*, the circular shot,
 I 2. philosopher’s

* Saving faith ; a belief that one shall certainly be saved.

† Election.

‡ The learning of the Presbyterians.

philosopher's stone, silent gun-powder, making chains for fleas, nets for flies, and instruments to unravel cobwebs and split hairs.

Thus, I think, I have given a distinct account of the methods he practised upon *Peg*. Her brother would now and then ask her, "What a devil dost thou see in that pragmatical coxcomb to make thee so in love with him? he is a fit match for a taylor or a shoemaker's daughter, but not for you, that are a gentlewoman." "Fancy is free, (quoth *Peg* :) I'll take my own way, do you take yours. I do not care for your flaunting beaus, that gang with their breasts open, and their farks over their waistcoats? that accost me with speeches out of *Sidney's Arcadia*, or the *Academy of Compliments*. *Jack* is a sober, grave young man; though he has none of your studied harangues, his meaning is sincere: he has a great regard to his father's will; and he that shews himself a good son, will make a good husband; besides, I know he has the original

“inal deed of conveyance to the Fortunate islands ; the others are counterfeits.” There is nothing so obstinate as a young lady in her amours ; the more you cross her, the worse she is.

C H A P. IV.

*How the relations reconciled John and his sister Peg, and what return Peg made to John's message.**

J O H N B U L L, otherwise a good-natured man, was very hard-hearted to his sister *Peg*, chiefly from an aversion he had conceived in his infancy. While he flourished, kept a warm house, and drove a plentiful trade, poor *Peg* was forced to go hawking and peddling about the streets, selling knives, scissars, and shoe-buckles ; now and then carried a basket of fish to the market ; sewed, spun, and knit for a livelihood, till her fingers-ends were sore, and when she

* The treaty of Union between England and Scotland.

she could not get bread for her family, she was forced to hire them out at journey-work to her neighbours. Yet in these her poor circumstances, she still preserved the air and mien of a gentlewoman, a certain decent pride, that extorted respect from the haughtiest of her neighbours; when she came into any full assembly, she would not yield the *pas* to the best of them. If one asked her, "Are not you related to *John Bull*?" "Yes, (says she) he has the honour to be my brother." So *Peg*'s affairs went, till all the relations cried out shame upon *John* for his barbarous usage of his own flesh and blood; that it was an easy matter for him to put her in a creditable way of living, not only without hurt but with advantage to himself, being she was an industrious person, and might be serviceable to him in his way of business. "Hang her, jade, (quoth *John*) I can't endure her, as long as she keeps that rascal *Jack*'s company." They told him, the way to reclaim her was to take her into his house: that by conversation the childish humours of their younger

younger days might be worn out, These arguments were enforced by a certain incident. It happened that *John* was at that time about making his * *will*, and *entailing his estate*, the very same in which *Nic. Frog* is named executor. Now his sister *Peg*'s name being in the entail, he could not make a thorough settlement without her consent. There was, indeed, a malicious story went about, as if *John*'s last wife had fallen in love with *Jack* as he was † eating custard on horseback ; that she persuaded *John* to take his sister into the house, the better to drive on the intrigue with *Jack*, concluding he would follow his mistress *Peg*. All I can infer from this story, is, that when one has got a bad character in the world, people will report and believe any thing of one, true or false. But to return to my story ; when *Peg* received *John*'s message,

* The succession to the crown having been settled by act of parliament, in *England*, upon the House of *Hanover*, and no such act having passed in *Scotland*, then a separate kingdom, it was thought a proper time to compleat the union which had been often attempted, and which was recommended to the *Scots* by king *William III.*

† A Presbyterian lord mayor of *London*.

message, she huffed and stormed like the devil :* “ My brother *John* (quoth she) “ is grown wondrous kind-hearted all “ of a sudden, but I meikle doubt, “ whether it be not mair for their own “ conveniency than for my good ; he “ draws up his writs and his deeds, for- “ sooth, and I must set my hand to them, “ unsight, unseen. I like the young “ man he has settled upon well enough, “ but I think I ought to have a valuable “ consideration for my consent. He “ wants my poor little farm, because it “ makes a nook in his park wall : ye “ may e’en tell him, he has mair than he “ makes good use of ; he gangs up and “ down drinking, roaring, and quar- “ relling, through all the country mar- “ kets, making foolish bargains in his “ cups, which he repents when he is “ sober ; like a thriftless wretch, spend- “ ing the goods and gear that his fore- “ fathers won with the sweat of their “ brows ; light come, light go, he cares “ not a farthing. But why should I “ stand

* The *Scots* expressed their fears for the presbyterian government, and of being burdened with the *English* national debts.

“ stand surety for his contracts ; the
“ little I have is frec, and I can call it
“ my awn ; hame’s hame, let it be never
“ so hamely. I ken him well enough,
“ he could never abide me, and when
“ he has his ends, he’ll e’en use me as
“ he did before. I am sure I shall be
“ treated like a poor drudge : I shall
“ be fet to tend the bairns, dearn the
“ hose, and mend the linen. Then
“ there’s no living with that old carline
“ his mother ; she rails at *Jack*, and
“ *Jack*’s an honestest man than any of
“ her kin ; I shall be plagued with her
“ spells and her *Pater-nosters*, and silly
“ old-world ceremonies ; I mun never
“ pare my nails on a *Friday*, nor begin
“ a journey on *Childermas-day* ; and I
“ mun stand becking and binging, as I
“ gang out and into the hall. Tell him
“ he may e’en gang his get ; I’ll have
“ nothing to do with him ; I’ll stay, like
“ the poor country mouse, in my awn
“ habitation.” So *Peg* talked ; but for
all that, by the interposition of good
friends, and by many a bonny thing
that was sent, and many more that were
promised *Peg*, the matter was concluded,
ed,

ed, and *Peg* taken into the house upon certain articles : one of which was, that she might have the freedom of *Jack's* conversation, * and might take him for better and for worse, if she pleased ; provided always, he did not come into the house at unseasonable hours, and disturb the rest of the old woman, *John's* mother.

C H A P. V.

Of some quarrels that happened after Peg was taken into the family.†

IT is an old observation, that the quarrels of relations are harder to reconcile than any other ; injuries from friends fret and gall more, and the memory of them is not so easily obliterated. This is cunningly represented by one of your old sages, called *Æsop*, in the story of the bird, that was grieved extremely at

* The act of toleration.

† Quarrels about some of the articles of Union, particularly the Peerage.

at being wounded with an arrow feathered with his own wing ; as also of the oak, that let many a heavy groan, when he was cleft with a wedge of his own timber.

There was no man in the world less subject to rancour than *John Bull*, considering how often his good nature had been abused ; yet I don't know, but he was too apt to hearken to tattling people, that carried tales between him and sister *Peg*, on purpose to sow jealousies, and set them together by the ears. They say that there were some hardships put upon *Peg*, which had been better let alone ; but it was the business of good people to restrain the injuries on one side, and moderate the resentments on the other ; a good friend acts both parts ; the one without the other will not do.

* The purchase money of *Peg's* farm was ill paid ; then *Peg* loved a little
K good

* By the xvth article of the treaty of Union, it was agreed that *Scotland* should have an equivalent for several customs and excises to which she would become liable, and this equivalent was not paid.

good liquor, and the servants shut up the wine-cellar ; but for that *Peg* found a trick, for she made a * false key. *Peg's* servants complained that they were debarred from all manner of business, and never suffered to touch the least thing within the house ; † if they offered to come into the warehouse, then strait went the yard flap over their noddle ; if they ventured into the counting-room a fellow would throw an ink-bottle at their head ; if they came into the best apartment, to set any thing there in order, they were saluted with a broom ; if they meddled with any thing in the kitchen, it was odds but the cook laid them over the pate with a ladle ; one that would have got into the stables, was met by two rascals, who fell to work with him with a brush and a curry-comb ; some climbing up into the coach-box, were told, that one of their companions had been there before, that could not drive ; then flap went the long whip about their ears.

On

* Run wine.

† By the test act dissenters are excluded from places and employments.

On the other hand it was complained, that *Peg's* servants were always asking for * drink-money ; that they had more than their share of the *Christmas-box* : to say the truth, *Peg's* lads bustled pretty hard for that, for when they were endeavouring to lock it up, they got in their great fists, and pulled out handfuls of half-crowns, shillings, and six-pences. Others in the scramble picked up guineas and broad-pieces. But there happened a worse thing than all this ; it was complained that *Peg's* servants had great stomachs, and brought so many of their friends and acquaintance to the table, that *John's* family was like to be eat out of house and home. Instead of regulating this matter as it ought to be, *Peg's* young men were thrust away from the table ; then there was the devil and all to do ; spoons, plates, and dishes flew about the room like mad : and sir *Roger*, who was now *major domo*, had enough to do to quiet them. *Peg* said, this was contrary to agreement, whereby she was in all things to be treated like a child of the family ; then she called

* Endeavoured to get their share of places.

led upon those, that had made her such fair promises, and undertook for her brother *John's* good behaviour, but, alas ! to her cost she found, that they were the first and readiest to do her the injury. *John* at last agreed to this regulation ; that *Peg's* * footmen might sit with his book-keeper, journeymen, and apprentices ; and *Peg's* better sort of servants might sit with his footmen, if they pleased.

Then they began to order plumb-porridge and minced-pies for *Peg's* dinner : *Peg* told them she had an aversion to that sort of food ; that upon forcing † down a mess of it some years ago, it threw her into a fit, till she brought it up again. Some alledged it was nothing but humour, that the same mess should be served up again for supper, and breakfast next morning ; others would have made use of a horn ; but the wiser sort bid let her alone, and she might take to it of her own accord.

C H A P.

* Articles of Union, whereby they could make a *Scots* commoner (but not a lord) a peer.

† Introducing Episcopacy into *Scotland*, by *Charles I.*

C H A P. VI.

The conversation between John Bull and his wife.

Mrs. Bull. **T**HOUGH our affairs, honey, are in a bad condition, I have a better opinion of them, since you seemed to be convinced of the ill course you have been in, and are resolved to submit to proper remedies. But when I consider your immense debts, your foolish bargains, and the general disorder of your business, I have a curiosity to know what fate or chance has brought you into this condition.

J. Bull. I wish you would talk of some other subject ; the thoughts of it make me mad ; our family must have their run.

Mrs. Bull. But such a strange thing as this never happened to any of your family before : they have had law-suits, but though they spent the income, they

never mortgaged the stock. Sure you must have some of the *Norman* or the *Norfolk* blood in you. Prithee give me some account of these matters.

J. Bull. Who could help it? There lives not such a fellow by bread as that old *Lewis Baboon*: he is the most cheating contentious rogue upon the face of the earth. You must know, one day, as *Nic. Frog* and I were over a bottle making up an old quarrel, the old fellow would needs have us drink a bottle of his *Champagne*, and so one after another, till my friend *Nic.* and I, not being used to such heady stuff, got bloody drunk. *Lewis* all the while, either by the strength of his brain, or flinching his glass, kept himself sober as a judge. “My worthy friends, (quoth *Lewis*,) “henceforth let us live neighbourly, I “am as peaceable and quiet as a lamb, “of my own temper, but it has been “my misfortune to live among quarrel- “some neighbours. There is but one “thing can make us fall out, and that “is, the *inheritance of lord Strutt’s es- “tate*; I am content for peace sake, to “wave

“ wave my right, and submit to any expedient to prevent a law-suit ; I think
“ an * *equal division* will be the fairest
“ way.” *Well moved, old Lewis, quoth*
Frog ; and I hope my friend John here
will not be refractory. At the same
time he clapped me on the back, and
flabbered me all over from cheek to
cheek, with his great tongue. *Do as you*
please, gentlemen, quoth I ; 'tis all one
to John Bull. We agreed to part that
night, and next morning to meet at the
corner of lord *Strutt's* park wall with
our surveying instruments, which ac-
cordingly we did. *Old Lewis* carried
a chain and a semicircle ; *Nic.* paper,
rulers, and a lead pencil ; and I fol-
lowed at some distance with a long
pole. We began first with surveying
the meadow grounds, afterwards we
measured the corn-fields, close by close ;
then we proceeded to the wood-lands,
the † copper and tin mines. All this
while *Nic.* laid down every thing ex-
actly upon paper, calculated the acres
and

* A treaty for preserving the balance of power in *Europe*
by a partition of the *Spanish* dominions.

† *The West Indies.*

and roods to a great nicety. When we had finished the land, we were going to break into the house and gardens to take an inventory of his plate, pictures, and other furniture.

Mrs. Bull. What said lord *Strutt* to all this?

J. Bull. As we had almost finished our concern, we were accosted by some of lord *Strutt*'s servants: "Hey day!
"What's here? What a devil's the
"meaning of all these trankrams and
"gimcracks, gentlemen? What in the
"name of wonder are you going about,
"jumping over my master's hedges, and
"running your lines cross his grounds?
"If you are at any field pastime, you
"might have asked leave, my master is
"a civil well-bred person as any is."

Mrs. Bull. What could you answer to this?

J. Bull. Why truly my neighbour *Frog* and I were still hot-headed; we told him his master was an old doating puppy,

puppy, that minded nothing of his own business ; that we were surveying his estate, and settling it for him, since he would not do it himself. Upon this there happened a quarrel, but we being stronger than they, sent them away with a flea in their ear. They went home and told their master.* “ My lord, (said they) there are three odd sort of fellows going about your grounds with the strangest machines, that ever we beheld in our life : I suppose they are going to rob your orchard, fell your trees, or drive away your cattle : they told us strange things of settling your estate : one is a lusty old fellow, in a black wig, with a black beard, without teeth : there’s another thick squat fellow, in trunk-hose : the third is a little long-nosed thin man. (I was then lean, being just come out of a fit of sickness) I suppose it is fit to send after them, lest they carry something away.”

Mrs.

* This partition of the king of *Spain's* dominions was made without his consent or even his knowledge.

Mrs. *Bull*. I fancy this put the old fellow in a rare tweague.

J. Bull. Weak as he was, he called for his long *Toledo*, swore and bounced about the room, “’Sdeath! what am I
“come to, to be affronted so by my
“tradesman? I know the rascals: my
“barber, clothier, and linen-draper dis-
“pose of my estate! bring hither my
“blunderbuls. I’ll warrant ye, you
“shall see day-light through them.
“Scoundrels! dogs! the scum of the
“earth! *Frog*, that was my father’s
“kitchen-boy, he pretend to meddle with
“my estate! with my will! Ah poor
“*Strutt*, what art thou come to at last?
“Thou hast lived too long in the world,
“to see thy age and infirmity so despi-
“sed: how will the ghosts of my noble
“ancestors receive these tidings? They
“cannot, they must not sleep quietly in
“their graves.” In short, the old gentleman was carried off in a fainting fit, and after bleeding in both arms hardly recovered.

Mrs. *Bull*. Really this was a very extraordinary

traordinary way of proceeding : I long to hear the rest of it.

J. Bull. After we had come back to the tavern, and taken t'other bottle of *Champagne*, we quarrelled a little about the division of the estate. *Lewis* hauled and pulled the map on one side, and *Frog* and I on the other, till we had like to have torn the parchment to pieces. At last *Lewis* pulled out a pair of great taylor's shears, and clipt a corner for himself, which he said was a manor that lay convenient for him, and left *Frog* and me the rest to dispose of as we pleased. We were overjoyed to think *Lewis* was contented with so little, not smelling what was at the bottom of the plot. There happened indeed an incident, that gave us some disturbance : a cunning fellow, one of my servants, two days after, peeping through the key-hole, observed that old *Lewis* had stole away our part of the map, and saw him fiddling and turning the map from one corner to the other, trying to join the two pieces together again : he was muttering something to himself, which we did

did not well hear, only these words, 'Tis great pity, 'tis great pity! My servant added, that he believed this had some ill meaning. I told him he was a coxcomb, always pretending to be wiser than his companions; *Lewis* and I are good friends, he's an honest fellow, and I dare say will stand to his bargain. The sequel of the story proved this fellow's suspicion to be too well grounded; for * *Lewis* revealed our whole secret to the deceased lord *Strutt*, who, in reward to his treachery and revenge to *Frog* and me, settled his whole estate upon the present *Philip Baboon*. Then we understood what he meant by piecing the map.

Mrs. *Bull*. And was you surprized at this? Had not lord *Strutt* reason to be angry? Would you have been contented to have been so used yourself.

J. *Bull*. Why truly, wife, it was not easily reconciled to the common methods;

* It is suspected that the *French* king intended to take the whole, and that he revealed the secret to the court of *Spain*, upon which the will was made in favour of his grandson.

methods ; but then it was the fashion to do such things. I have read of your golden age, your silver age, *etc.* one might justly call this the age of *lawyers*. There was hardly a man of substance in all the country, but had a * *counterfeit that pretended to his estate*. As the philosophers say, that there is a duplicate of every terrestrial animal at sea, so it was in this age of the lawyers, there was at least two of every thing ; nay, on my conscience, I think there were three † *esquire Hackums* at one time. In short, it was usual for a parcel of fellows to meet, and dispose of the whole estates in the country : *This lies convenient for me, Tom : Thou wouldst do more with that, Dick, than the old fellow that has it.* So to law they went with the true owners ; the lawyers got well by it ; every body else was undone. It was a common thing for an honest man, when he came home at night, to find another fellow domineering in his family, hectoring his servants, calling for supper, and pretending to go

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* Several Pretenders at that time.

† Kings of Poland.

to bed to his wife. In every house you might observe two *Sesias* quarrelling who was master. For my own part, I am still afraid of the same treatment, and that I should find somebody behind my counter selling my broadcloth.

Mrs. Bull. There are a sort of fellows, they call banterers and bamboozlers, that play such tricks ; but it seems, these fellows were in earnest.

J. Bull. I begin to think, that *justice* is a better rule than *conveniency*, for all some people make so slight on it.

C H A P. VII.

*Of the hard shifts Mrs. Bull was put to, to preserve the manor of Bullock's Hatch ; with sir Roger's method to keep off importunate duns.**

AS John Bull and his wife were talking together, they were surprized

* After the dissolution of the parliament, the sinking ministry

prized with a sudden knocking at the door: "Those wicked scriveners and
"lawyers, no doubt," quoth *John*; and
so it was: some asking for the money
he owed, and others warning to prepare
for the approaching term. "What a
"curfed life do I lead? (quoth *John*.)
"Debt is like deadly sin: for God's
"sake, sir *Roger*, get me rid of the fel-
"lows." "I'll warrant you, (quoth sir
"Roger;) leave them to me." And
indeed it was pleasant enough to ob-
serve sir *Roger*'s method with these im-
portunate duns; his sincere friendship
for *John Bull* made him submit to many
things for his service, wh ch he would
have scorned to have done for himself.
* Sometimes he would stand at the door
with his long staff to keep off the
duns, 'till *John* got out at the back-
door

ministry endeavoured to support themselves by propagating
a notion, that the publick credit would suffer if the lord
treasurer *Godolphin* was removed; the dread of this event
produced it: the monied men began to sell their shares in
the bank; the governor, deputy governor, and two direct-
ors applied to the Queen to prevent the change; the alarm
became general, and all the publick funds gradually sunk.
Perhaps by *Bullock's Hatch*, the author meant the crown
lands: See page 143.

* Manners of the earl of *Oxford*.

door. When the lawyers and tradesmen brought extravagant bills, sir *Roger* used to bargain beforehand for leave to cut off a quarter of a yard in any part of the bill he pleased ; he wore a pair of scissars in his pocket for this purpose, and would snip it off so nicely as you cannot imagine. Like a true goldsmith he kept all your holidays ; here was not wanting one in his calendar ; when ready money was scarce, he would set them a telling a thousand pounds in sixpences, groats, and three-penny pieces. It would have done your heart good to have seen him charge through an army of lawyers, attorneys, clerks and tradesmen ; sometimes with sword in hand, at other times nuzzling like an eel in the mud. When a fellow stuck like a bur, that there was no shaking him off, he used to be mighty inquisitive about the health of his uncles and aunts in the country ; he could call them all by their names, for he knew every body, and could talk to them in their own way. The extremely impertinent he would send away to see some strange sight, as the dragon of *Hockley in the Hole* ;

Hole ; or bid him call the 30th of next *February*. * Now and then you would see him in the kitchen, weighing the beef and butter ; paying ready money, that the maids might not run a tick at the market, and the butchers, by bribing of them, sell damaged and light meat. Another time he would slip into the cellar, and gauge the casks. In his leisure minutes he was posting his books, and gathering in his debts. Such frugal methods were necessary, where money was so scarce, and duns so numerous. All this while *John* kept his credit, could shew his head both at *Change* and *Westminster-hall* ; no man protested his bill, nor refused his bond ; only the sharpeners and scriveners, the lawyers and other clerks pelted sir *Roger* as he went along. The squinters were at it with their kennel water, for they were mad for the loss of their bubble, and that they could not get him to mortgage the manor of *Bullock's Hatch*. Sir *Roger* shook his ears, and nuzzled along well satisfied within himself, that he was doing

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* Some regulations as to the purveyance in the Queen's family.

ing a charitable work in rescuing an honest man from the claws of *harpies* and *blood-suckers*. Mrs. *Bull* did all that an affectionate wife, and a good housewife could do ; yet the boundaries of virtues are indivisible lines ; it is impossible to march up close to the frontiers of frugality, without entering the territories of parsimony. Your good housewives are apt to look into the minutest things ; * therefore some blamed Mrs. *Bull* for new heel-piecing of her shoes, grudging a quarter of a pound of *soap* and *sand* to scour the rooms ; but especially, † that she would not allow her maids and apprentices the benefit of *John Bunyan*, the *London Apprentices*, or the *Seven Champions* in the black letter.

C H A P.

* Too great savings in the house of commons.

† Restraining the liberty of the press by act of parliament.

C H A P. VIII.

*A continuation of the conversation betwixt
John Bull and his wife.*

Mrs. Bull. **I**T is a most sad life we lead, my dear, to be so teased, paying interest for old debts, and still contracting new ones. However, I don't blame you for vindicating your honour, and chastising old *Lewis*: to curb the insolent, protect the oppressed, recover one's own, and defend what one has, are good effects of the law: the only thing I want to know, is, how you came to make an end of your money, before you finished your suit.

J. Bull. I was told by the learned in the law, that my suit stood upon three firm pillars; *more money for more law: more law for more money, and no composition.* More money for more law, was plain to a demonstration, for who can go to law without money? and it was plain, that any man that has money, may have law for it. The third was as evident

evident as the other two ; for what composition could be made with a rogue, that never kept a word he said ?

Mrs. *Bull*. I think you are most likely to get out of this labyrinth by the second door, by want of ready money to purchase this precious commodity : but you seem not only to have bought too much of it, but have paid too dear for what you bought ; else, how was it possible to run so much in debt, when at this very time, the yearly income of what is mortgaged to those usurers, would discharge *Hocus's* bills, and give you your belly-full of law for all your life, without running one six-pence in debt ? You have been bred up to business ; I suppose you can cypher : I wonder you never use your pen and ink.

F. *Bull*. Now you urge me too far ; prithee, dear wife, hold thy tongue. Suppose a young heir, heedless, raw, and unexperienced, full of spirit and vigour, with a favourite passion, in the hands of money scriveners : such fellows

lows are like your wire-drawing mills ; if they get hold of a man's finger, they will pull in his whole body at last, 'till they squeeze the heart, blood and guts out of him. * When I wanted money, half a dozen of these fellows were always waiting in my antichamber with their securities *ready* drawn. I was tempted with the ready, some farm or other went to pot. I received with one hand, and paid it away with the other to lawyers, that like so many hell-hounds were ready to devour me. . Then the rogues would plead poverty, and scarcity of money, which always ended in receiving ninety for the hundred. After they had got possession of my best rents, they were able to supply me with my own money. But what was worse, when I looked into the securities, there was no clause of redemption.

Mrs. Bull. No clause of redemption say you ? that's hard.

J. Bull. No great matter, for I cannot

* Methods of preying upon the necessities of the government,

not pay them. They had got a worse trick than that ; the same man bought and sold to himself, paid the money, and gave the acquittance ; the same man was butcher and grafier, brewer and butler, cook and poulterer. There is something still worse than all this ; there came twenty bills upon me at once, which I had given money to discharge ; I was like to be pulled to pieces by brewer, butcher, and baker ; even my herb-women dunned me as I went along the street. (Thanks to my friend sir Roger, else I must have gone to goal.) When I asked the meaning of this, I was told, the money went to the lawyers ; counsel won't tick, sir ; *Hocus* was urging : my book-keeper sat frotting all day, playing at *put* and *all-fours* : in short, by griping usurers, devouring lawyers, and negligent servants, I am brought to this pass.

Mrs. *Bull*. This was hard usage ! but methinks, the least reflection might have retrieved you.

J. *Bull*. It is true : yet consider
my

my circumstances ; my honour was engaged, and I did not know how to get out ; besides, I was for five years often drunk, always muddled ; they carried me from tavern to tavern, to ale-houses and brandy-shops, and brought me acquainted with such strange dogs ! *

“ There goes the prettiest fellow in the
“ world, says one, for managing a jury ;
“ make him yours. There’s another
“ can pick you up witnesses : serjeant
“ such-a-one has a silver tongue at the
“ bar.” I believe, in time I should have retained every single person within the inns of court. The night after a trial I treated the lawyers, their wives and daughters, with fiddles, hautboys, drums, and trumpets. I was always hot-headed ; then they placed me in the middle, the attornies and their clerks dancing about me, whooping, and hollowing, *Long live John Bull, the glory and support of the law !*

Mrs. Bull. Really, husband, you went through a very notable course.

J. Bull.

* Hiring still more troops.

J. Bull. One of the things, that first alarmed me, was * that they shewed a spite against my poor old mother. "Lord, quoth I, what makes you so jealous of a poor, old, innocent gentlewoman, that minds only her prayers, and her practice of piety: she never meddles in any of your concerns?" "Foh, (say they) to see a handsome, brisk, genteel, young fellow, so much governed by a doating old woman! why don't you go and suck the bubbly? Do you consider she keeps you out of a good jointure? She has the best of your estate settled upon her for a rent-charge: hang her, old thief, turn her out of doors, seize her land, and let her go to law if she dares." "Soft and fair, gentlemen, quoth I; my mother's my mother; our family are not of an unnatural temper. Tho' I don't take all her advice, I won't seize her jointure; long may she enjoy it, good woman; I don't grudge it her, she allows me now and then a brace of hundreds for my law-suit; that's pretty fair."

About

* Railing against the church.

About this time the old gentlewoman fell ill of an * odd sort of distemper ; it began with a coldness and numbness in her limbs, which by degrees affected the nerves, (I think the physicians call them) seized the brain, and at last ended in a lethargy. It betrayed itself at first in a sort of indifference and carelessness in all her actions, coldness to her best friends, and an aversion to stir or go about the common offices of life. She, that was the cleanliest creature in the world, never shrunk now, if you set a close-stool under her nose. She, that would sometimes rattle off her servants pretty sharply, now, if she saw them drink, or heard them talk profanely, never took any notice of it. † Instead of her usual charities to deserving persons, she threw away her money upon roaring swearing bullies and beggars, that went about the streets. “ What is
 “ the matter with the old gentlewoman,
 “ (said every body) she never used to
 M “ do

* Carelessness in forms and discipline,

† Disposing of some preferments to libertine and unprincipled persons.

“do in this manner?” * At last the distemper grew more violent, and threw her downright into raving fits; in which she shrieked out so loud, that she disturbed the whole neighbourhood. In her fits she called upon one *Sir William*: “† Oh! *Sir William*, thou hast betrayed me! killed me! stabbed me! sold me to the cuckold of *Dover-street*! See, see, *Clum* with his bloody knife! seize him, seize him, stop him; Behold the fury with her hissing snakes? Where’s my son *John*! Is he well, is he well! poor man, I pity him;” and abundance more of such strange stuff, that nobody could make any thing of. I knew little of the matter; for when I enquired about her health, the answer was, that “she was in a good moderate way.” Physicians were sent for in haste: sir *Roger*, with great difficulty, brought *Ratcliff*; *Garth* came upon the first message. There were several others called in; but, as usual upon such occasions, they differed strangely at the consultation.

* The too violent clamours about the danger of the church.

† *Sir William*, a cant name of sir *Humphrey*’s for Lord Treasurer *Cedolphin*.

consultation. At last they divided into two parties, one sided with *Garth*, the other with *Ratcliff*. * *Dr. Garth*, "This case seems to me to be plainly hysterical; the old woman is whimsical; it is a common thing for your old women to be so; I'll pawn my life, blisters, with the steel diet, will recover her." Others suggested strong purging, and letting of blood, because she was plethorick. Some went so far as to say the old woman was mad, and nothing would be better than a little corporal correction. *Ratcliff*, "Gentlemen, you are mistaken in this case; it is plainly an acute distemper, and she cannot hold out three days, unless she is supported with strong cordials." I came into the room with a good deal of concern, and asked them, what they thought of my mother? "In no manner of danger, I vow to *Gad*, (quoth *Garth*) the old woman is hysterical, fanciful, Sir, I vow to *Gad*." "I tell you, Sir, (says *Ratcliff*,) she cannot live three days to an end, unless there

* *Garth*, the low-church party. *Ratcliff*, high-church party.

“there is some very effectual course taken with her; she has a malignant fever.” Then fool, puppy, and block-head were the best words they gave. I could hardly restrain them from throwing the ink-bottles at one another’s heads. I forgot to tell you, that one party of the physicians desired, I would take my sister *Peg* into the house to nurse her, but the old gentlewoman would not hear of that. At last one physician asked, if the lady had ever been used to take *Laudanum*? Her maid answered, not that she knew; but indeed there was a *High German Liverman* of hers, one **Yan Ptschirnsooker*, that gave her a sort of quack-powder. The physician desired to see it: “Nay, (says he,) there is *Opium* in this, I am sure.”

Mrs. Bull. I hope you examined a little into this matter.

J. Bull. I did indeed, and discovered a great mystery of iniquity. The witnesses

* *Yan Ptschirnsooker*, a bishop at that time, a great dealer in politicks and physick.

nesses made oath, That they had heard some of the **Livery-men* frequently railing at their mistresses. “ They said, she “ was a troublesome fiddle-faddle old “ woman, and so ceremonious, that “ there was no bearing of her. They “ were so plagued with bowing and “ cringing as they went in and out of “ the room, that their backs ached. “ She used to scold at one for his dirty “ shoes, at another for his greasy hair, “ and not combing his head : that she “ was so passionate and fiery in her temper, that there was no living with “ her ; she wanted something to sweeten her blood : that they never had a “ quiet night’s rest, for getting up in the “ morning to early sacraments ; they “ wished they could find some way or “ another to keep the old woman quiet “ in her bed.” Such discourses were often overheard among the *Livery-men*, while the said *Yan Ptschirnfooker* had undertook this matter. A maid made affidavit, “ That she had seen the said “ *Yan Ptschirnfooker*, one of the *Livery-men*, frequently making up of medicines,

M 2

* The clergy.

“cines, and administring them to all
“the neighbours ; that she saw him one
“morning make up the powder, which
“her mistress took ; that she had the
“curiosity to ask him, whence he had
“the ingredients ? They come, says he,
“from several parts of de world ; dis I
“have from *Geneva*, dat from *Rome*,
“dis white powder from *Amsterdam*,
“and de red from *Edinburgh* : but de
“chief ingredient of all comes from
“*Turkey*.” It was likewise proved, that
the said *Ptschirnfooker* had been fre-
quently seen at the *Rose* with *Jack*, who
was known to bear an inveterate spite
to his mistress, which the examinant be-
lieves to be the same, and spoke the fol-
lowing words : “Madam, here is grand
“secreet van de world, my sweetening
“powder, it does temperate de humour,
“despel the windt, and cure de va-
“pour, it lulleth and quieteth the ani-
“mal spirits, procuring rest and pleas-
“ant dreams : it is de infallible receipt
“for de fcurvy, all heats in de bloodt,
“and breaking out upon de skin : it is
“de true blood-stancher, stopping all
“fluxes of de blood : if you do take
“dis,

“dis, you will never ail any ding, it
 “will cure you of all diseases :” and
 abundance more to this purpose, which
 the examinant does not remember.

John Bull was interrupted in his story
 by a porter, that brought him a letter
 from *Nicholas Frog*, which is as follows,

C H A P. IX.

* *A Copy of Nic. Frog's letter to John Bull.*

[*John Bull reads.*]

FRIEND JOHN,

“**W**HAT Schellum is this, that
 “makes thee jealous of thy old
 “friend *Nicholas* ? Hast thou forgot
 “how some years ago he took thee out
 “of the † spunging-house ?” [*'Tis true
 my friend Nic. did so, and I thank him ;
 but he made me pay a swingeing reckon-
 ing.*]

* A letter from the S—s G—l.

† Alluding to the Revolution.

ing.] “Thou beginn’st now to repent
“thy bargain, that thou wast so fond
“of; and, if thou durst, would’st for-
“swear thy own hand and seal. Thou
“say’st, that thou hast purchased me too
“great an estate already; when, at the
“same time, thou know’st I have only
“a mortgage: ’tis true, I have posses-
“sion, and the tenants own me for mas-
“ter; but has not esquire South the
“equity of redemption?” [*No doubt,
and will redeem it very speedily; poor
Nic. has only possession, eleven points of
the law.*] “As for the * turnpikes, I
“have set up, they are for other peo-
“ple, not for my friend John; I have
“ordered my servant constantly to at-
“tend, to let thy carriages through
“without paying any thing; only I
“hope thou wilt not come too heavy
“laden to spoil my ways. Certainly, I
“have just cause of offence against
“thee, my friend, for supposing it possi-
“ble that thou and I should ever quar-
“rel: what hounds-foot is it that puts
“these whims in thy head? Ten thou-
“sand last of devils haul me, if I don’t
“love

† The Dutch prohibition of trade.

“love thee as I love my life.” [No
question, as the devil loves holy-water !]
“Does not thy own hand and seal oblige
“thee to purchase for me, till I say it
“is enough ? Are not these words
“plain ? I say it is not enough. Dost
“thou think, thy friend *Nicholas Frog*
“made a child’s bargain ? Mark the
“words of thy contract, *Totâ pecuniâ*,
“with all thy money.” [Very well ! I
have purchased with my own money, my
children’s, and my grand-children’s mon-
ey, is not that enough ? Well, *totâ pecu-*
niâ let it be, for at present I have none at
all : he would not have me purchase with
other people’s money, sure ; since *totâ pe-*
cuniâ is the bargain, I think it is plain,
no more money, no more purchase.]
“And whatever the world may say,
“*Nicholas Frog* is but a poor man in
“comparison of the rich, the opulent
“*John Bull*, great clothier of the world.
“I have had many losses, six of my best
“sheep were drowned, and the water
“has come into my cellar, and spoiled
“a pipe of my best brandy : it would
“be a more friendly act in thee to carry
“a brief about the country to repair
“the

“ the losses of thy poor friend. Is it
“ not evident to all the world, that I
“ am still hemmed in by *Lewis Baboon* ?
“ Is he not just upon my borders ?”
[*And so he will be, if I purchase a thou-*
[*sand acres more, unless he get somebody*
[*betwixt them.*] “ I tell thee, friend
“ *John*, thou hast flatterers, that per-
“ suade thee that thou art a man of bu-
“ siness ; do not believe them : if thou
“ would’st still leave thy affairs in my
“ hands, thou should’st see how hand-
“ somely I would deal by thee. That
“ ever thou should’st be dazzled with
“ the enchanted islands, and mountains
“ of gold, that old *Lewis* promises thee !
“ ‘Dswounds ! why dost thou not lay
“ out thy money to purchase a place at
“ court, of honest *Israel* ? I tell thee,
“ thou must not so much as think of a
“ composition. [*Not think of a compo-*
[*sition, that’s hard indeed ; I can’t help*
[*thinking of it, if I would.*] “ Thou
“ complain’st of want of money ; let
“ thy wife and daughters burn the gold
“ lace off their petticoats ; sell thy fat
“ cattle ; retrench but a sirloin of beef
“ and a peck-loaf in a week from thy
“ gormandizing

“gormandizing guts.” [Retrench my beef, a dog ! Retrench my beef ! then it is plain, the rascal has an ill design upon me, he would starve me.] “Mortgage thy manor of Bullock’s Hatch, or pawn thy crop for ten years.” [A rogue ! part with my country-seat, my patrimony, all that I have left in the world, I’ll see him hanged first.] “Why hast thou changed thy attorney ? Can any man manage thy cause better for thee ?” [Very pleasant ! because a man has a good attorney, he must never make an end of his law-suit.] “Ah, John ! John ! I wish thou knew’st thy own mind ; thou art as fickle as the wind. I tell thee, thou hadst better let this composition alone, or leave it to thy

Loving friend,

NIC. FROG.

C H A P.

C H A P. X.

*Of some extraordinary * things that passed at the Salutation tavern, in the conference between Bull, Frog, esquire South, and Lewis Baboon.*

FROG had given his word, that he would meet the above-mentioned company at the *Salutation* to talk of this agreement. Though he durst not directly break his appointment, he made many a shuffling excuse ; one time he pretended to be seized with the gout in his right knee ; then he got a great cold that had struck him deaf of one ear ; afterwards two of his coach-horses fell sick, and he durst not go by water, for fear of catching an ague. *John* would take no excuse, but hurried him away : “ Come *Nic.* (says he) let’s go and hear “ at least what this old fellow has to “ propose ! I hope there’s no hurt in “ that.” “ Be it so, (quoth *Nic.*) but if “ I

* The treaty of *Utrecht* : the difficulty to get them to meet. When met, the *Dutch* would not speak their sentiments, nor the *French* deliver in their proposals. The house of *Austria* talked very high.

“ I catch any harm, woe be to you ;
“ my wife and children will curse you
“ as long as they live.” When they
were come to the *Salutation*, *John* con-
cluded all was sure then, and that he
should be troubled no more with law
affairs ; he thought every body as plain
and sincere as he was. “ Well, neigh-
“ bours, (quoth he) let’s now make an
“ end of all matters, and live peaceably
“ together for the time to come : if ev-
“ ery body is as well inclined as I, we
“ shall quickly come to the upshot of
“ our affair.” And so pointing to *Frog*
to say something, to the great surprize
of all the company, *Frog* was seized
with a dead palsy in the tongue. *John*
began to ask him some plain questions,
and whooped and hallooed in his ear.
“ Let’s come to the point, *Nic.* ! Who
“ wouldest thou have to be lord *Strutt* ?
“ Wouldest thou have *Philip Baboon* ?”
Nic. shook his head, and said nothing.
“ Wilt thou then have esquire *South* to
“ be lord *Strutt* ?” *Nic.* shook his head
a second time. “ Then who the devil
“ wilt thou have ? say something or
“ another.” *Nic.* opened his mouth,
N and

and pointed to his tongue, and cried,
“A, a, a, a !” which was as much as to
say, he could not speak. *John Bull.*
“Shall I serve *Philip Baboon* with
“broad-cloth, and accept of the com-
“position that he offers, with the liberty
“of his parks and fish-ponds ?” Then
Nic. roared like a bull, “O, o, o, o !”
John Bull. “If thou wilt not let me
“have them, wilt thou take them thy-
“self ?” Then *Nic.* grinned, cackled,
and laughed, till he was like to kill him-
self, and seemed to be so pleased, that
he fell a frisking and dancing about the
room. *John Bull.* “Shall I leave all
“this matter to thy management, *Nic.*
“and go about my business ?” Then
Nic. got up a glass, and drank to *John*,
shaking him by the hand, till he had
like to have shook his shoulder out of
joint. *John Bull.* “I understand thee
“*Nic.* but I shall make thee speak be-
“fore I go.” Then *Nic.* put his finger
in his cheek, and made it cry *Buck* ;
which was as much as to say, I care not
a farthing for thee. *John Bull.* “I
“have done *Nic.* if thou wilt not speak,
“I’ll make my own terms with old
“*Lewis*

“*Lewis* here.” Then *Nic.* lolled out his tongue, and turned up his bum to him ; which was as much as to say, Kifs -----

John perceiving that *Frog* would not speak, turns to old *Lewis* ; “ Since we
“ cannot make this obstinate fellow
“ speak, *Lewis*, pray condescend a little
“ to his humour, and set down thy
“ meaning upon paper, that he may an-
“ swer it in another scrap.”

“ I am infinitely sorry (quoth *Lewis*)
“ that it happens so unfortunately ; for
“ playing a little at cudgels t’other
“ day, a fellow has given me such a rap
“ over the right-arm, that I am quite
“ lame : I have lost the use of my fore-
“ finger and my thumb, so that I can-
“ not hold my pen.”

J. Bull. That’s all one, let me write for you.

Lewis. But I have a misfortune, that I cannot read any body’s hand but my own.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Try what you can do with your left-hand.

Lewis. That's impossible ; it will make such a scrawl, that it will not be legible.

As they were talking of this matter, in came *esquire *South*, all dressed up in feathers and ribbons, stark staring mad, brandishing his sword, as if he would have cut off their heads ; crying, " Room, room, boys, for the grand
" esquire of the world ! the flower of
" esquires ! What ! covered in my
" presence ? I'll crush your souls, and
" crack you like lice !" With that he had like to have struck *John Bull's* hat into the fire ; but *John*, who was pretty strong-fisted, gave him such a squeeze as made his eyes water. He went on still in his mad pranks ; " When I am
" lord of the universe, the sun shall
" prostrate and adore me ! Thou, *Frog*,
" shalt be my bailiff ; *Lewis* my tay-
" lor ;

* The Archduke was now become Emperor of Germany ; being unanimously elected upon the death of *Joseph* the first.

“lor ; and thou, *John Bull*, shalt be
“my fool !”

All this while, *Frog* laughed in his
sleeve, gave the esquire t’other noggin of
brandy, and clapped him on the back,
which made him ten times madder.

Poor *John* stood in amaze, talking
thus to himself : “ Well, *John*, thou art
“got into rare company ! One has a
“dumb devil, t’other a mad devil, and
“the third a spirit of infirmity. An
“honest man has a fine time on’t among
“such rogues. What art thou asking
“of them, after all ? Some mighty
“boon one would think ! only to sit
“quietly at thy own fire-side. ‘Sdeath,
“what have I to do with such fellows !
“*John Bull*, after all his losses and
“crosses, can live better without them,
“than they can without him. Would
“to God I lived a thousand leagues off
“them ! but the devil’s in’t, *John Bull*
is in, and *John Bull* must get out as
“well as he can.”

As he was talking to himself, he ob-
served

served *Frog* and old *Lewis* edging * towards one another to whisper ; so that *John* was forced to sit with his arms a-kimbo, to keep them asunder.

Some people advised *John* to blood *Frog* under the tongue, or take away his bread and butter, which would certainly make him speak ; to give esquire *South* hellebore ; as for *Lewis*, some were for emollient poultices, others for opening his arm with an incision-knife.

† C H A P. XI.

The apprehending, examination and imprisonment of Jack for suspicion of poisoning.

THE attentive reader cannot have forgot that the story of *Yan Ptschirnfooker's*

* Some attempts of secret negociation between the *French* and the *Dutch*.

† The receiving the holy sacrament as administered by the church of *England* once at least in every year, having been made a necessary qualification for places of trust and profit,

Ptschirnfooker's powder was interrupted by a message from *Frog*. I have a natural compassion for curiosity, being much troubled with the distemper myself; therefore to gratify that uneasy itching sensation in my reader, I have procured the following account of that matter.

Yan Ptschirnfooker came off (as rogues usually do upon such occasions) by peaching his partner; and being extremely forward to bring him to the gallows. * *Jack* was accused as the contriver of all the roguery. And indeed it happened unfortunately for the poor fellow,

profit, many of the Dissenters came to the altar merely for this purpose. A bill to prevent this practice had been three times brought into the house and rejected, under the title of *A bill to prevent occasional conformity*. But the Earl of *Nottingham* having brought it in a fourth time under another name, and with the addition of such clauses as were said to enlarge the toleration, and to be a further security to the Protestant succession, the Whigs, whose cause the Earl then appeared to espouse, were persuaded to concur; some, because they were indeed willing that the bill should pass, and others, because they believed the Earl of *Oxford* would at last procure it to be thrown out. The four following chapters contain the history of this transaction.

* All the misfortunes of the church charged upon the Presbyterian party.

fellow, that he was known to bear a most inveterate spite against the old gentlewoman; and consequently, that never any ill accident happened to her, but he was suspected to be at the bottom of it. If she pricked her finger, *Jack*, to be sure, laid the pin in the way; if some noise in the street disturbed her rest, who could it be but *Jack* in some of his nocturnal rambles? If a servant ran away, *Jack* had debauched him: every idle tittle-tattle that went about, *Jack* was always suspected for the author of it: however, all was nothing to this last affair of the temperating, moderating powder.

The hue and cry went after *Jack* to apprehend him dead or alive, wherever he could be found. The constables looked out for him in all his usual haunts; but to no purpose. Where d'ye think they found him at last? Even smoaking his pipe very quietly at his brother *Martin's*; from whence he was carried with a vast mob at his heels before the worshipful Mr. justice *Overdo*. Several of his neighbours made oath,
That

* That of late the prisoner had been observed to lead a very dissolute life, renouncing even his usual hypocrisy, and pretences to sobriety : that he frequented taverns and eating-houses, and had been often guilty of drunkenness and gluttony at my lord-mayor's table : that he had been seen in the company of lewd women : that he had transferred his usual care of the engrossed copy of his father's will, to bank bills, orders for tallies, and debentures : † these he now affirmed, with more literal truth, to be ‡ *meat, drink, and cloth, the philosopher's stone, and the universal medicine* : that he was so far from shewing his customary reverence to the *will*, that he kept company with those that called his father a cheating rogue, and his will a forgery : § that he not only sat quietly and heard his father railed at, but often chimed in with the discourse, and hugged the authors as his bosom friends :
that

* The manners of the Dissenters changed from their former strictness.

† Dealing much in stock-jobbing.

‡ Tale of a Tub.

§ Herding with Deists and Atheists.

* *that instead of asking for blows at the corners of the streets, he now bestowed them as plentifully as he begged them before. In short, that he was grown a mere rake ; and had nothing left in him of old Jack, except his spite to John Bull's mother.*

Another witness made oath, That *Jack* had been overheard bragging of a † trick he had found out to manage the *old formal jade*, as he used to call her, “ Damn this numb-skull of mine, (quoth he,) that I could not light on it sooner. As long as I go in this ragged, tattered coat, I am so well known, that I am hunted away from the old woman's door by every barking cur about the house ; they bid me defiance. There's no doing mischief as an open enemy ; I must find some way or other of getting within doors, and then I shall have better opportunities of playing my pranks, besides the benefit of good keeping.”

Two

* Tale of a Tub.

† Getting into places and church preferments by occasional conformity.

* Two witnesses swore, That several years ago, there came to their mistress's door a young fellow in a tattered coat, that went by the name of *Timothy Trim*, whom they did in their conscience believe to be the very prisoner, resembling him in shape, stature, and the features of his countenance : that the said *Timothy Trim* being taken into the family, clapped their mistress's livery over his own tattered coat : that the said *Timothy* was extremely officious about their mistress's person, endeavouring by flattery and tale-bearing to set her against the rest of the servants : nobody was so ready to fetch any thing that was wanted, to reach what was dropped : that he used to shove and elbow his fellow-servants to get near his mistress, especially when money was a paying or receiving ; then he was never out of the way : that he was extremely diligent about every body's business but his own : that the said *Timothy*, while he was in the family, used to be playing roguish tricks ; when his mistress's back was

* Betraying the interests of the church, when got into preferments,

was turned, he would loll out his tongue, make mouths, and laugh at her, walking behind her like *Harlequin*, ridiculing her motions and gestures; but if his mistress looked about, he put on a grave, demure countenance, as if he had been in a fit of devotion: that he used often to trip up stairs so smoothly, that you could not hear him tread, and put all things out of order: that he would pinch the children and servants, when he met them in the dark, so hard, that he left the print of his fore-finger and his thumb in black and blue, and then slink into a corner, as if nobody had done it: out of the same malicious design, he used to lay chairs and joint-stools in their way, that they might break their noses by falling over them: the more young and unexperienced, he used to teach to talk saucily and call names: during his stay in the family, there was much plate missing; being caught with a couple of silver spoons in his pocket, with their handles wrenched off, he said, he was only going to carry them to the goldsmith's to be mended: that the said *Timothy* was hated

ted by all the honest servants for his ill-conditioned, splenetick tricks, but especially for his slanderous tongue ; traducing them to their mistrefs, as drunkards, thieves, and whore-masters : that the said *Timothy* by lying stories used to set all the family together by the ears, taking delight to make them fight and quarrel ; * particularly one day sitting at table, he spoke words to this effect :
“ I am of opinion, (quoth he) that little
“ short fellows, such as we are, have
“ better hearts, and could beat the tall
“ fellows ; I wish it came to a fair trial ; I believe these long fellows, as
“ fightly as they are, should find their
“ jackets well thwacked.”

A parcel of tall fellows, who thought themselves affronted by the discourse, took up the quarrel, and to't they went, the tall men and the low men, which continues still a faction in the family to the great disorder of our mistrefs's affairs : the said *Timothy* carried this frolick so far, that he proposed to his mistress,

* The original of the distinction in the names of *Low-churchmen* and *High-churchmen*.

trefs, that ſhe ſhould entertain no ſervant, that was above four feet ſeven inches high ; and for that purpoſe had prepared a gage, by which they were to be meaſured. The good old gentlewoman was not ſo ſimple, as to go into his project ; ſhe began to ſmell a rat. “ This *Trim*, (quoth ſhe) is an odd ſort
“ of a fellow ; methinks he makes a
“ ſtrange figure with that ragged, tatter-
“ ed coat, appearing under his livery ;
“ can’t he go ſpruce and clean, like the
“ reſt of the ſervants ? the fellow has a
“ roguiſh leer with him, which I don’t
“ like by any means ; beſides, he has
“ ſuch a twang in his diſcourſe, and an
“ ungraceful way of ſpeaking through
“ the noſe, that one can hardly under-
“ ſtand him ; I wiſh the fellow be not
“ tainted with ſome bad diſeaſe.” The
witneſſes farther made oath, that the
ſaid *Timothy* lay out a-nights, and went
abroad often at unſeaſonable hours ;
and it was credibly reported, he did
buſineſs in another family : that he pre-
tended to have a ſqueamiſh ſtomach,
and could not eat at table with the reſt
of the ſervants, though this was but a
pretence

pretence to provide some nice bit for himself ; that he refused to dine upon salt-fish, only to have an opportunity to eat a calf's head (his favourite dish) in private ; that for all his tender stomach, when he was got by himself, he could devour capons, turkeys, and sirloins of beef, like a cormorant.

Two other witnesses gave the following evidence : That in his officious attendance upon his mistress, he had tried to slip a powder into her drink ; and that he was once caught endeavouring to stifle her with a pillow as she was asleep : that he and *Ptschirnsooker* were often in close conference, and that they used to drink together at the *Rose*, where it seems he was well enough known by his true name of *Jack*.

The prisoner had little to say in his defence ; he endeavoured to prove himself *Alibi* ; so that the trial turned upon this single question, whether the said *Timothy Trim* and *Jack* were the same person ; which was proved by such plain tokens and particularly by a mole

mole under the left pap, that there was no withstanding the evidence; therefore the worshipful Mr. Justice committed him, in order to his trial.

C H A P. XII.

How Jack's friends came to visit him in prison, and what advice they gave him.

JACK hitherto had passed in the world for a poor, simple, well-meaning, half-witted, crack-brained fellow. People were strangely surprized to find him in such a roguery; that he should disguise himself under a false name, hire himself out for a servant to an old gentlewoman, only for an opportunity to poison her. They said, that it was more generous to profess open enmity, than under a profound dissimulation to be guilty of such a scandalous breach of trust, and of the sacred rights of hospitality. In short, the action was universally condemned by his best friends; they

they told him in plain terms, that this was come as a judgment upon him for his loose life, his gluttony, drunkenness, and avarice, for laying aside his father's *will* in an old mouldy trunk, and turning stock-jobber, news-monger, and busy-body, meddling with other people's affairs, shaking off his old serious friends, and keeping company with buffoons and pick-pockets, his father's sworn enemies : that he had best throw himself upon the mercy of the court ; repent, and change his manners. To say truth, *Jack* heard these discourses with some compunction ; however, he resolved to try what his new acquaintance would do for him : they sent * *Habbakkuk Slyboots*, who delivered him the following message, as the peremptory commands of his trusty companions.

Habbukuk. Dear *Jack*, I am sorry for thy misfortune : matters have not been carried on with due secrecy ; however we must make the best of a bad
O 2 bargain ;

* *Habbakkuk Slyboots*, a certain great man who persuaded the Dissenters to consent to the bill against *occasional conformity*, as being for their interest.

bargain : thou art in the utmost jeopardy, that's certain ; hang, draw, and quarter, are the gentlest things they talk of. However, thy faithful friends, ever watchful for thy security, bid me tell thee, that they have one infallible expedient left to save thy life : thou must know, we have got into some understanding with the enemy, by the means of *Don Diego* : he assures us there is no mercy for thee, and that there is only one way left to escape ; it is indeed somewhat out of the common road ; however, be assured, it is the result of most mature deliberation.

Jack. Prithee tell me quickly, for my heart is sunk down into the very bottom of my belly.

Hab. It is the unanimous opinion of your friends, that you * *make as if you hanged yourself* ; they will give it out that you are quite dead, and convey your body out of prison in a bier ; and *John Bull*, being busied with his law-suit,

* Consent to the bill against occasional conformity.

suit, will not enquire further into the matter.

Jack. How d'ye mean, make as if I hanged myself?

Hab. Nay, you must really hang yourself up, in a true genuine rope, that there may appear no trick in it, and and leave the rest to your friends.

Jack. Truly this is a matter of some concern; and my friends, I hope, won't take it ill, if I enquire a little into the means by which they intend to deliver me: a rope and a noose are no jesting matters!

Hab. Why so mistrustful? hast thou ever found us false to thee? I tell thee, there is one ready to cut thee down.

Jack. May I presume to ask who it is, that is entrusted with so important an office?

Hab. Is there no end of thy *hows* and thy *whys*? *That's a secret.*

Jack.

Jack. A secret, perhaps, that I may be safely trusted with, for I am not like to tell it again. I tell you plainly, it is no strange thing for a man, before he hangs himself up, to enquire who is to cut him down.

Hab. Thou suspicious creature! if thou must needs know it, I tell thee it is * *sir Roger*: he has been in tears ever since thy misfortune. *Don Diego* and we have laid it so, that he is to be in the next room, and before the rope is well about thy neck, rest satisfied, he will break in and cut thee down: fear not, old boy; we'll do it, I'll warrant thee.

Jack. So I must hang myself up, upon hopes *sir Roger* will cut me down, and all this upon the credit of *Don Diego*: a fine stratagem indeed to save my life, that depends upon hanging, *Don Diego*, and *sir Roger*!

Hab. I tell thee there is a *mystery* in
all

* It was given out that the Earl of *Oxford* would oppose the occasional bill, and so lose his credit with the Tories; and the Dissenters did believe he would not suffer it to pass.

all this, my friend, a piece of profound *policy* ; if thou knewest what good this will do to the *common cause*, thy heart would leap for joy : I am sure thou wouldst not delay the experiment one moment.

Jack. This is to the tune of *All for the better*. What's your cause to me, when I am hanged ?

Hab. Refractory mortal ! If thou wilt not trust thy friends, take what follows ; know assuredly, before next full moon, that thou wilt be hung up in chains, or thy quarters perching upon the most conspicuous places of the kingdom. Nay, I don't believe they will be contented with hanging ; they talk of empaling, or breaking on the wheel ; and thou chusest that, before a gentle suspending of thyself for one minute. Hanging is not so painful a thing as thou imaginest. I have spoke with several, that have undergone it ; they all agree it is no manner of uneasiness : be sure thou take good notice of the symptoms, the relation will be curious. It is

is but a kick or two with thy heels, and a wry mouth or so : fir *Roger* will be with thee in the twinkling of an eye.

Jack. But what if fir *Roger* should not come ; will my friends be there to succour me ?

Hab. Doubt it not ; I will provide every thing against to-morrow morning ; do thou keep thy own secret ; say nothing : I tell thee, it is absolutely necessary for the common good, that thou shouldst go through this operation.

C H A P. XIII.

How Jack hanged himself up by the persuasion of his friends, who broke their words, and left his neck in the noose.

JACK was a professed enemy to *implicit faith*, and yet I dare say it was never more strongly exerted, nor more basely abused, than upon this occasion. He

He was now with his old friends, in the state of a poor disbanded officer after a peace, or rather a wounded soldier after a battle; like an old favourite of a cunning minister after the job is over; or a decayed beauty to a cloyed lover in quest of new game; or like a hundred such things, that one sees every day. There were new intrigues, new views, new projects on foot; * *Jack's* life was the purchase of *Diego's* friendship, much good may it do them. The interest of *Hocus* and sir *William Crawley*, which was now more at heart, made this operation upon poor *Jack* absolutely necessary. You may easily guess, that his rest that night was but small, and much disturbed; however, the remaining part of his time, he did not employ (as his custom was formerly) in prayer, meditation, or singing a double verse of a psalm; but amused himself with disposing of his bank stock. Many a doubt, many a qualm, overspread his clouded imagination: "Must I then, (quoth he)

* The Earl of *Nottingham* made the concurrence of the Whigs to bring in and carry this bill one of the conditions of his engaging in their cause.

“ he) hang up my own personal, natural,
“ individual self, with these two hands !
“ *Durus Sermo* ! What if I should be
“ cut down, as my friends tell me ?
“ There is something infamous in the
“ very attempt ; the world will con-
“ clude, I had a guilty conscience. Is
“ it possible, that good man, sir *Roger*,
“ can have so much pity upon an un-
“ fortunate scoundrel, that has persecu-
“ ted him so many years ? No, it can-
“ not be ; I don’t love favours that
“ pass through *Don Diego*’s hands. On
“ the other side, my blood chills about
“ my heart at the thought of these
“ rogues, with their bloody hands grab-
“ bling in my guts, and pulling out my
“ very entrails : hang it, for once I’ll
“ trust my friends.” So *Jack* resolv-
ed ; but he had done more wisely to
have put himself upon the trial of his
country, and made his defence in form ;
many things happen between the cup
and the lip ; witnesses might have been
bribed, juries managed, or prosecution
stopped. But so it was, *Jack* for this
time had a sufficient stock of implicit
faith,

faith, which led him to his ruin, as the sequel of the story shews.

And now the fatal day was come, in which he was to try this hanging experiment. His friends did not fail him at the appointed hour to see it put in practice. *Habbakkuk* brought him a smooth, strong, tough rope, made of many a ply of wholesome *Scandinavian* hemp, compactly twisted together, with a noose that slipped as glib as a bird-catcher's gin. *Jack* shrunk and grew pale at first sight of it; he handled it, measured it, stretched it, fixed it against the iron bar of the window to try its strength; but no familiarity could reconcile him to it. He found fault with the length, the thickness, and the twist; nay, the very colour did not please him. "Will nothing less than hanging serve, (quoth *Jack*) won't my enemies take bail for my good behaviour? Will they accept of a fine, or be satisfied with the pillory and imprisonment, a good round whipping, or burning in the cheek?"

Hab. Nothing but your blood will
P appease

appease their rage ; make haste, else we shall be discovered. There's nothing like surprizing the rogues : how they will be disappointed, when they hear that thou hast prevented their revenge, and hanged thine own self ?

Jack. That's true ; but what if I should do it in effigies ? Is there never an old Pope or Pretender to hang up in my stead ? we are not so unlike, but it may pass.

Hab. That can never be put upon *sir Roger*.

Jack. Are you sure he is in the next room ? Have you provided a very sharp knife, in case of the worst ?

Hab. Dost thou take me for a common liar ? be satisfied, no damage can happen to your person ; your friends will take care of that.

Jack. Mayn't I quilt my rope ? It galls my neck strangely : besides, I don't like this running knot, it holds too tight ; I may be stifled all of a sudden.

Hab.

Hab. Thou hast so many *ifs* and *ands* ; prithee dispatch ; it might have been over before this time.

Jack. But now I think on't, I would fain settle some affairs, for fear of the worst : have a little patience.

Hab. There's no having patience, thou art such a faintling, silly creature.

Jack. O thou most detestable, abominable *passive obedience* ! did I ever imagine, I should become thy votary in so pregnant an instance ! How will my brother *Martin* laugh at this story, to see himself outdone in his own calling ? He has taken the doctrine, and left me the practice.

No sooner had he uttered these words, but like a man of true courage, he tied the fatal cord to the beam, fitted the noose, and mounted upon the bottom of a tub, the inside of which he had often graced in his prosperous days. This footstool *Habbakkuk* kicked away, and left poor *Jack* swinging, like the pendulum

lum of *Paul's* clock. The fatal noose performed its office, and with the most strict ligature squeezed the blood into his face, till it assumed a purple dye. While the poor man heaved from the very bottom of his belly for breath, *Habakkuk* walked with great deliberation into both the upper and lower room to acquaint his friends, who received the news with great temper, and with jeers and scoffs instead of pity. “*Jack* has hanged himself, (quoth they) let us go and see how the poor rogue swings.” Then they called sir *Roger*. “Sir *Roger*, (quoth *Habakkuk*) *Jack* has hanged himself, make haste and cut him down.” Sir *Roger* turned first one ear, and then t’other, not understanding what he said.

Hab. I tell you, *Jack* has hanged himself up.

Sir *Roger*. Who’s hanged?

Hab. *Jack*.

Sir *Roger*. I thought this had not been hanging day.

Hab.

Hab. But the poor fellow has hang-
ed himself.

Sir Roger. Then let him hang. I
don't wonder at it, the fellow has been
mad these twenty years.----With this he
flunk away.

Then *Jack's* friends begun to hunch
and push one another ; " Why don't
" you go, and cut the poor fellow
" down ?" " Why don't you ?" " And
" why don't you ?" " Not I," quoth
one ; " Not I," quoth another ; " Not
" I, (quoth a third) he may hang 'till
" doomsday before I relieve him."
Nay, it is credibly reported, that they
were so far from succouring their poor
friend in this his dismal circumstance,
that *Ptschirnfooker* and several of his
companions went in and pulled him by
the legs, and thumped him on the breast.
Then they began to rail at him for the
very thing, which they had advised and
justified before, *viz.* his getting into the
old gentlewoman's family, and putting
on her livery. The keeper, who per-
formed the last office, coming up, found

Jack swinging with no life in him ; he took down the body gently, and laid it on a bulk, and brought out the rope to the company. “ This, gentlemen, is “ the rope that hanged *Jack* ; what “ must be done with it ? ” Upon which they ordered it to be laid among the curiosities * of *Gresham-College*, and it is called, *Jack's rope* to this very day. However, *Jack* after all had some small tokens of life in him, but lies at this time past hope of a total recovery, with his head hanging on one shoulder, without speech or motion. The coroner's inquest supposing him to be dead, brought him in *Non Compos*.

C H A P. XIV.

The conference between Don Diego and John Bull.

DURING the time of the foregoing transactions, *Don Diego* was entertaining *John Bull*.

D. Diego.

* Since removed with the Royal Society into *Crane-Court*, in *Fleet-Street*.

D. Diego. I hope, Sir, this day's proceeding will convince you of the sincerity of your old friend *Diego*, and the treachery of sir *Roger*.

J. Bull. What's the matter now?

D. Diego. You have been endeavouring, for several years, to have justice done upon that rogue *Jack*; but what through the remissness of constables, justices, and packed juries, he has always found the means to escape.

J. Bull. What then?

D. Diego. Consider then, who is your best friend; he that would have brought him to condign punishment, or he that has saved him. By my persuasion *Jack* had hanged himself, if sir *Roger* had not cut him down.

J. Bull. Who told you that sir *Roger* has done so?

D. Diego. You seem to receive me coldly; methinks my services deserve a better return.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Since you value yourself upon hanging this poor scoundrel, I tell you, when I have any more hanging-work, I'll send for thee : I have some better employment for sir *Roger* : In the mean time, I desire the poor fellow may be looked after. When he first came out of the North country into my family, under the pretended name of *Timothy Trim*, the fellow seemed to mind his loom and his spinning-wheel, 'till somebody turned his head ; then he grew so pragmatical, that he took upon him the government of my whole family : I could never order any thing within or without doors, but he must be always giving his counsel, forsooth : nevertheless, tell him, I will forgive what is past ; and if he would mind his business for the future, and not meddle out of his own sphere, he will find, that *John Bull* is not of a cruel disposition.

D. Diego. Yet all your skilful physicians say, that nothing can recover your mother, but a piece of *Jack's* liver boiled in her soup.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Those are quacks : my mother abhors such Cannibals food : she is in perfect health at present : I would have given many a good pound to have had her so well some time ago.

* There are indeed two or three troublesome old nurses, that, because they believe I am tender-hearted, will never let me have a quiet night's rest with knocking me up : " Oh, Sir, your
" mother is taken extremely ill ! she is
" fallen into a fainting fit ! she has a
" great emptiness, wants sustenance !"

This is only to recommend themselves for their great care : *John Bull*, as simple as he is, understands a little of a pulse.

C H A P. XV.

The sequel of the meeting at the † Salutation.

WHERE I think I left *John Bull*, sitting between *Nic. Frog* and *Lewis*

* New clamours about the danger of the church.

† At the congress of *Utrecht*.

Lewis Baboon, with his arms a-kimbo, in great concern to keep *Lewis* and *Nic.* asunder. As watchful as he was, *Nic.* found the means now and then to steal a whisper, and by a cleanly conveyance under the table to slip a short note into *Lewis's* hand ; which *Lewis* as slyly put into *John's* pocket, with a pinch or a jog, to warn him what he was about. *John* had the curiosity to retire into a corner to peruse these * *billet doux* of *Nic's* ; wherein he found, that *Nic.* had used great freedoms both with his interest and reputation. One contained these words : “ Dear *Lewis*, Thou seest
 “ clearly, that this blockhead can never
 “ bring his matters to bear : let thee
 “ and me talk to-night by ourselves at
 “ the *Rose*, and I’ll give thee satisfac-
 “ tion.” Another was thus expressed ;
 “ Friend *Lewis*, Has thy sense quite
 “ forsaken thee, to make *Bull* such of-
 “ fers ? Hold fast, part with nothing,
 “ and I will give thee a better bargain,
 “ I’ll warrant thee,”

In

* Some offers of the *Dutch* at that time, in order to get the negotiation into their hands.

In some of his billets he told *Lewis*,
“ That *John Bull* was under his guar-
“ dianship ; that the best part of his ser-
“ vants were at his command ; that he
“ could have *John* gagged and bound
“ whenever he pleased by the people of
“ his own family.” In all these epistles,
blockhead, dunce, ass, coxcomb, were
the best epithets he gave poor *John*.
In others he threatened, * “ That he,
“ esquire *South*, and the rest of the
“ tradesman, would lay *Lewis* down
“ upon his back and beat out his teeth,
“ if he did not retire immediately, and
“ break up the meeting.”

I fancy I need not tell my reader,
that *John* often changed colour as he
read, and that his fingers itched to give
Nic. a good flap on the chops ; but he
wisely moderated his cholerick temper.
“ I saved this fellow, (quoth he) from
“ the gallows, when he ran away from
“ his last master,† because I thought he
“ was harshly treated ; but the rogue
“ was

* Threatening that the *Allies* would carry on the war,
without the help of the *English*.

† The King of *Spain*, whose yoke the *Dutch* threw off
with the assistance of the *English*.

“ was no sooner safe under my protec-
 “ tion, than he began to lie, pilfer and
 “ steal like the devil.* When I first
 “ set him up in a warm house, he had
 “ hardly put up his sign, when he began
 “ to debauch my best customers from
 “ me. † Then it was his constant prac-
 “ tice to rob my fish-ponds, not only to
 “ feed his family, but to trade with the
 “ fish-mongers: I connived at the fel-
 “ low, till he began to tell me, that they
 “ were his as much as mine. In my
 “ manor of ‡ *Eastcheap*, because it lay
 “ at some distance from my constant
 “ inspection, he broke down my fences,
 “ robbed my orchards, and beat my ser-
 “ vants. When I used to reprimand
 “ him for his tricks, he would talk sau-
 “ cily, lye, and brazen it out, as if he
 “ had done nothing amiss. Will no-
 “ thing cure thee of thy pranks, *Nic*?
 “ (quoth I,) I shall be forced some time
 “ or other to chastise thee. The rogue
 “ got up his cane, and threatened me,
 “ and

* Complaints against the *Dutch* for encroachment in trade, fishery, *East-Indies*, &c. The war with the *Dutch* on these accounts.

† ‡ See the note above.

“ and was well thwacked for his pains.
“ But I think his behaviour at this time
“ worst of all ; after I have almost
“ drowned myself to keep his head
“ above water, he would leave me stick-
“ ing in the mud, trusting to his good-
“ ness to help me out. After I have
“ beggared myself with his troublesome
“ law-suit, with a pox to him, he takes
“ it in mighty dudgeon, because I have
“ brought him here to end matters ami-
“ cably, and because I won't let him
“ make me over by deed and indenture
“ as his lawful cully ; which to my cer-
“ tain knowledge he has attempted sev-
“ eral times. But after all, canst thou
“ gather grapes from thorns ? *Nic.* does
“ not pretend to be a gentleman ; he is
“ a tradesman, a self-seeking wretch ;
“ but how camest thou to bear all this,
“ *John* ? The reason is plain ; thou
“ conferest the benefits, and he re-
“ ceives them ; the first produces love,
“ and the last ingratitude. Ah ! *Nic.*
“ *Nic.* thou art a damn'd dog, that's
“ certain ; thou knowest too well, that
“ I will take care of thee ; else thou
“ wouldest not use me thus. I won't

Q

“ give

“ give thee up, it is true ; but as true
“ as it is, thou shalt not sell me, ac-
“ cording to thy laudable custom.”
While *John* was deep in this solilo-
quy, *Nic.* broke out into the following
protestation.

GENTLEMEN,

“ I believe every body here present
“ will allow me to be a very just and
“ disinterested person. My friend *John*
“ *Bull* here is very angry with me, for-
“ sooth, because I won't agree to his
“ foolish bargains. Now I declare to
“ all mankind, I should be ready to sa-
“ crifice my own concerns to his quiet ;
“ but the care of his interest, and that
“ of the honest **tradesmen* that are em-
“ barked with us, keeps me from enter-
“ ing into this composition. What
“ shall become of those poor creatures ?
“ The thoughts of their impending ruin
“ disturbs my night's rest, therefore I
“ desire they may speak for themselves.
“ If they are willing to give up this af-
“ fair, I shan't make two words of it.”

John

* The *Allies*.

John Bull begged him to lay aside that immoderate concern for him ; and withal put him in mind, that the interest of those tradesmen had not sat quite so heavy upon him some years ago, on a like occasion. *Nic.* answered little to that, but immediately pulled out a boat-swain's whistle. Upon the first whiff, the *tradesmen* came jumping into the room, and began to surround *Lewis*, like so many yelping curs about a great boar ; or, to use a modester simile, like duns at a great lord's levee the morning he goes into the country. One pulled him by his sleeve, another by the skirt, a third hallooed in his ear : they began to ask him for all that had been taken from their forefathers by stealth, fraud, force, or lawful purchase : some asked for manors, others for acres, that lay convenient for them ; that he would pull down his fences, level his ditches : all agreed in one common demand, that he should be purged, sweated, vomited, and starved, till he came to a fizeable bulk, like that of his neighbours : one modestly asked him leave to call him brother ; *Nic. Frog* demanded two things,

things, to be his porter and his fish-monger, to keep the keys of his gates, and furnish the kitchen. *John's* sister *Peg* only desired, that he would let his servants sing psalms a Sundays. Some descended even to the asking of old cloaths, shoes, and boots, broken bottles, tobacco-pipes, and ends of candles.

“ *Monfieur Bull*, (quoth *Lewis*,) you
“ seem to be a man of some breeding ;
“ for God’s sake use your interest with
“ these Messieurs, that they would speak
“ but one at once ; for if one had a
“ hundred pair of hands, and as many
“ tongues, he cannot satisfy them all at
“ this rate.” *John* begged they might
proceed with some method ; then they
stopped all of a sudden, and would not
say a word. “ If this be your play,
“ (quoth *John*) that we may not be
“ like a Quaker’s dumb meeting, let us
“ begin some diversion ; What d’ye ye
“ think of roly-pooly, or a country-
“ dance ? What if we should have a
“ match at foot-ball ? I am sure we
“ shall never end matters at this rate.”

CHAP.

C H A P. XVI.

*How John Bull and Nic. Frog settled
their accompts.*

J. Bull. DURING this general cessation of talk, what if you and I, *Nic.* should enquire how money matters stand between us?

Nic. Frog. With all my heart, I love exact dealing; and let *Hocus* audit; he knows how the money was disbursed.

J. Bull. I am not much for that at present; we'll settle it between ourselves: fair and square, *Nic.* keeps friends together. There have been laid out in this law-suit, at one time, 36000 pounds and 40000 crowns: in some cases I, in others you, bear the greatest proportion.

Nic. Right: I pay three fifths of the greatest number, and you pay two thirds of the lesser number: I think this is fair and square as you call it.

J. Bull. Well, go on.

Nic. Two thirds of 36000 pounds are 24000 pounds for your share, and there remains 12000 for mine. Again, of the 40000 crowns I pay 24000, which is three fifths, and you pay only 16000, which is two fifths ; 24000 crowns make 6000 pounds ; and 16000 crowns make 4000 pounds ; 12000 and 6000 make 18000 ; 24000 and 4000 make 28000. So there are 18000 pounds to my share of the expences, and 28000 to yours.

After *Nic.* had bamboozled *John* a while about the 18000 and the 28000, *John* called for counters ; but what with flight of hand, and taking from his own score, and adding to *John's*, *Nic.* brought the balance always on his own side.

J. Bull. Nay, good friend *Nic.* though I am not quite so nimble in the fingers, I understand cyphering as well as you. I will produce you my accounts one by one, fairly writ out of
my

my own books : and here I begin with the first. You must excuse me, if I don't pronounce the law terms right.

[John reads.]

For the *Expences ordinary* of the suits, fees to judges, puny judges, lawyers, innumerable of all sorts.

Of *Extraordinaries*, as follows *per* accompt.

To Esquire South's accompt. for <i>post Terminums</i>	-	-	-	-
To ditto for <i>Non est factums</i>	-	-	-	-
To ditto for <i>Noli prosequi's</i> , discontinuance, and retraxit	-	-	-	-
For <i>Writs of error</i>	-	-	-	-
Suits of <i>Conditions unperform'd</i>	-	-	-	-
To Hocus for <i>Dedimus protestatem</i>	-	-	-	-
To ditto for a <i>Capias ad computandum</i>	-	-	-	-
To Frog's new tenants, <i>per</i> accompt to Hocus, for <i>Audita querela's</i>	-	-	-	-
On the said accompt for <i>Writs of ejectment and distringas</i>	-	-	-	-
To Esquire South's quota for a return of a <i>Non est invent.</i> and <i>Nulla habet bona</i>	-	-	-	-

To

To ---- for a pardon *in forma pauperis*
 To Jack for a *Melius inquirendum* upon
 a *Felo de se* - - - - -
 To coach-hire - - - - -
 For treats to juries and witnesses -

John having read over his arti-
 cles with the respective sums, brought
 in Frog debtor to him upon the bal-
 ance - - - £3382 12 00.

Then Nic. Frog pulled his bill out of
 his pocket and began to read :

Nicholas Frog's account.

Remains to be deducted out of the for-
 mer account.

Paid by Nic. Frog, for his share of the
ordinary Expences of the suit - - -
 To Hocus for entries of a *Reges incon-*
sulto - - - - -
 To John Bull's nephew for a *Venire*
facias, the money not yet all laid
 out - - - - -
 The coach-hire for my wife and family,
 and

and the carriage of my goods during
 the time of this law-suit - - -
 For the extraordinary expences of feed-
 ing my family during this law-suit -
 To Major *Ab.* - - - - -
 To Major *Will.* - - - - -

And summing all up, found due
 upon the balance by *John Bull* to *Nic.*
Frog, - - - - - £ 09 04 06.

J. Bull. As for your *Venire facias*,
 I have paid you for one already ; in
 the other I believe you will be non-
 suited. I'll take care of my nephew
 myself. Your *coach-hire* and family
 charges are most unreasonable deduc-
 tions ; at that rate, I can bring in any
 man in the world my debtor. But who
 the devil are these two *majors*, that con-
 sume all my money ? I find they always
 run away with the balance in all ac-
 compts.

Nic. Frog. Two very honest gentle-
 men, I assure you, that have done me
 some service. To tell you plainly, *Ma-*
major Ab. denotes thy greater *ability*, and
Major

Major Will. thy greater *willingness* to carry on this law-suit. It was but reasonable that thou shouldst pay both for thy *power* and thy *positiveness*.

J. Bull. I believe, I shall have those two honest *Majors* discount on my side in a little time.

Nic. Frog. Why all this higgling with thy friend about such a paltry sum? Does this become the generosity of the noble and rich *John Bull*? I wonder thou art not ashamed. Oh *Hocus! Hocus!* where art thou? It used to go another-guise manner in thy time. When a poor man has almost undone himself for thy sake, thou art for fleecing him, and fleecing him; is that thy conscience, *John*?

J. Bull. Very pleasant indeed! It is well known thou retainest thy lawyers by the year, so a fresh lawyer adds but little to thy expences; * they are thy customers; I hardly ever sell them a farthing's worth of any thing: nay, thou hast

* The money spent in *Holland* and *Flanders*.

hast set up an eating-house where the whole tribe of them spend all they can rap or run. If it were well reckoned, I believe thou gettest more of my money, than thou spendest of thy own; however, if thou wilt needs plead poverty, own at least, that thy accompts are false.

Nic. Frog. No marry won't I; refer myself to these honest gentlemen; let them judge between us. Let esquire *South* speak his mind, whether my accompts are not right, and whether we ought not to go on with our law-suit.

J. Bull. Consult the butchers about keeping of *Lent*. Dost think, that *John Bull* will be tried by * *Piepowders*? I tell you once for all, *John Bull* knows where his shoe pinches: none of your esquires shall give him the law, as long as

* Court of *Piepowders* (*Curia pedis pulverizati*) is a court of record incident to every fair; whereof the steward is judge, and the trial is by merchants and traders in the fair. It is so called, because it is most usual in the summer; and because of the expedition in hearing causes, for the matter is to be done, complained of, heard and determined the same day, that is, before the dust goes off the feet of the plaintiffs and defendants.

as he wears this trusty weapon by his side, or has an inch of broad-cloth in his shop.

Nic. Frog. Why there it is ; you will be both judge and party ; I am sorry thou discoverest so much of thy head-strong humour before these strange gentlemen : I have often told thee it would prove thy ruin some time or other : let it never be said, that the famous *John Bull* has departed in spite of court.

J. Bull. And will it not reflect as much on thy character, *Nic.* to turn barretter in thy old days ; a stirrer up of quarrels amongst thy neighbours ? I tell thee, *Nic.* some time or other thou wilt repent this.

But *John* saw clearly, he should have nothing but wrangling, and that he should have as little success in settling his accompts, as ending the composition. “ Since they will needs overload
“ my shoulders, (quoth *John*) I shall
“ throw down the burden with a squash
“ amongst

“ amongst them, take it up who dares ;
 “ a man has a fine time of it amongst a
 “ combination of sharpers, that vouch-
 “ safe for one another’s honesty. *John*,
 “ look to thyself ; old *Lewis* makes rea-
 “ sonable offers ; when thou hast spent
 “ the small pittance that is left, thou
 “ wilt make a glorious figure, when
 “ thou art brought to live upon *Nic*.
 “ *Frog*, and esquire *South*’s generosity
 “ and gratitude : if they use thee thus,
 “ when they want thee, what will they
 “ do when thou wantest them ? I say
 “ again, *John*, look to thyself.”

John wisely stifled his resentments,
 and told the company, that in a little
 time he should give them law, or some-
 thing better.

All. * Law ! law ! Sir, by all means.
 What is twenty-two poor years towards
 the finishing a law-suit ? For the love
 of God, more law, Sir !

J. Bull. Prepare your demands ;
 how many years more of law do you
 R want,

* Clamours for continuing the war.

want, that I may order my affairs accordingly ? In the mean while, farewell.

C H A P. XVII.

** How John Bull found all his family in an uproar at home.*

NIC. FROG, who thought of nothing but carrying *John* to the market, and there disposing of him as his own proper goods, was mad to find that *John* thought himself now of age to look after his own affairs. He resolved to traverse this new project, and to make him uneasy in his own family. He had corrupted or deluded most of his servants into the most extravagant conceits in the world ; that their master was run mad, and wore a dagger in one pocket, and poison in the other ; that he had sold his wife and children to *Lewis*, disinherited his heir, and was going to settle his estate upon a *parish-boy* ;

** Clamours about the danger of the succession.*

boy ; that if they did not look after their master, he would do some very mischievous thing. When *John* came home, he found a more surprizing scene than any he had yet met with, and that you will say was somewhat extraordinary.

He called his cook-maid *Betty* to bespeak his dinner : *Betty* told him, “ That she begged his pardon, she
“ could not dress dinner, till she knew
“ what he intended to do with his will ? ”
“ Why, *Betty*, (quoth *John*) thou art
“ not run mad, art thou ? My will at
“ present, is to have dinner : ” “ That
“ may be, (quoth *Betty*) but my con-
“ science won’t allow me to dress it,
“ till I know whether you intend to do
“ righteous things by your heir. ” “ I
“ am sorry for that, *Betty*, (quoth *John*)
“ I must find somebody else then. ”
Then he called *John* the barber. “ Be-
“ fore I begin, (quoth *John*) I hope
“ your honour won’t be offended, if I
“ ask you whether you intend to alter
“ your will ? If you won’t give me a
“ positive answer, your beard may
“ grow

“grow down to your middle, for me.”
“’Igad, so it shall, (quoth *Bull*) for I
“will never trust my throat in such a
“mad fellow’s hands. Where’s *Dick*
“the butler?” “Look ye, (quoth
“*Dick*) I am very willing to serve you
“in my calling, d’ye see; but there are
“strange reports, and plain dealing is
“best, d’ye see; I must be satisfied if
“you intend to leave all to your neph-
“ew, and if *Nic. Frog* is still your exe-
“cutor, d’ye see; if you will not satisfy
“me as to these points, you may drink
“with the ducks.” “And so I will,
“(quoth *John*) rather than keep a but-
“ler that loves my heir better than
“myself.” *Hob* the shoe-maker, and
Pricket the taylor told him, “They
“would most willingly serve him in
“their several stations, if he would
“promise them never to talk with *Lewis*
“*Baboon*, and let *Nicholas Frog*, linen-
“draper, manage his concerns; that
“they could neither make shoes nor
“cloaths to any, that were not in good
“correspondence with their worthy
“friend *Nicholas*.”

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Call *Andrew* my journeyman. How goes affairs, *Andrew*? I hope the devil has not taken possession of thy body too.

Andrew. No, Sir; I only desire to know what you would do if you were dead?

J. Bull. Just as other dead folks do,
Andrew.----This is amazing! *Aside.*

Andrew. I mean, if your nephew shall inherit your estate?

J. Bull. That depends upon himself. I shall do nothing to hinder him.

Andrew. But will you make it sure?

J. Bull. Thou meanest that I should put him in possession, for I can make it no surer without that; he has all the law can give him.

Andrew. Indeed possession, as you say, would make it much surer; they say, It is eleven points of the law.

John began now to think that they were all enchanted ; he enquired about the age of the moon ; if *Nic.* had not given them some intoxicating *potion*, or if old mother *Jenisa* was still alive ?
“ No, o’my faith, (quoth *Harry*) I believe there is no *potion* in the case,
“ but a little *Aurum potabile*. You will
“ have more of this by and by.” He had scarce spoke the word, when another friend of *John’s* accosted him after the following manner :

“ Since those worthy persons, who
“ are as much concerned for your
“ safety as I am, have employed me as
“ their orator, I desire to know whether
“ you will have it by way of *Syllogism*,
“ *Enthymem*, *Dilemma*, or *Sorites*.”

John now began to be diverted with their extravagance.

J. Bull. Let’s have a *Sorites* by all means ; though they are all new to me.

Friend. It is evident to all, who are versed in history, that there were two
sisters

sisters that played the whore two thousand years ago : therefore it plainly follows, that it is not lawful for *John Bull* to have any manner of intercourse with *Lewis Baboon* : if it is not lawful for *John Bull* to have any manner of intercourse (correspondence, if you will, that is much the same thing) then *à fortiori*, it is much more unlawful for the said *John* to make over his wife and children to the said *Lewis* : if his wife and children are not to be made over, he is not to wear a dagger and ratbane in his *pockets* : if he wears a dagger and ratbane, it must be to do mischief to himself, or somebody else : if he intends to do mischief, he ought to be under guardians, and there is none so fit as myself, and some other worthy persons, who have a commission for that purpose from *Nic. Frog*, the executor of his will and testament.

J. Bull. And this is your *Sorites*, you say;——With that he snatched a good tough oaken cudgel, and began to brandish it ; then happy was the man that was first at the door ; crowding to
get

get out they tumbled down stairs ; and it is credibly reported some of them dropped very valuable things in the hurry, which were picked up by others of the family.

“ That any of these rogues, (quoth
 “ *John*) should imagine, I am not as
 “ much concerned as they about having
 “ my affairs in a settled condition, or
 “ that I would wrong my heir for I
 “ know not what ! Well *Nic.* I really
 “ cannot but applaud thy diligence ; I
 “ must own this is really a pretty sort
 “ of a trick, but it shan’t do thy business
 “ for all that.”

CHAP. XVIII.

* *How Lewis Baboon came to visit John Bull, and what passed between them.*

[I THINK it is but ingenuous to acquaint the reader, that this chapter was not wrote by Sir *Humphrey* himself, but by another very able pen of the university of *Grubstreet*.]

JOHN had (by some good instructions given him by sir *Roger*) got the

* Private negotiations about *Dunkirk*.

the better of his cholerick temper, and wrought himself up to a great steadiness of mind to pursue his own interest through all impediments, that were thrown in the way : he began to leave off some of his old acquaintance, his roaring and bullying about the streets ; he put on a serious air, knit his brows, and, for the time, had made a very considerable progress in politicks, considering that he had been kept a stranger to his own affairs. However, he could not help discovering some remains of his nature, when he happened to meet with a foot-ball, or a match at cricket ; for which sir Roger was sure to take him to task. *John* was walking about his room, with folded arms, and a most thoughtful countenance : his servant brought him word, that one *Lewis Baboon* below wanted to speak with him. *John* had got an impression, that *Lewis* was so deadly cunning a man, that he was afraid to venture himself alone with him : at last he took heart of grace ; “ Let him come up, (quoth he) it is but “ sticking to my point, and he can “ never over-reach me.”

Lewis

Lewis Baboon. Monsieur *Bull*, I will frankly acknowledge, that my behaviour to my neighbours has been somewhat uncivil, and I believe you will readily grant me, that I have met with usage accordingly. I was fond of backsword and cudgel-play from my youth, and I now bear in my body many a black and blue gash and scar, God knows. I had as good a warehouse, and as fair possessions, as any of my neighbours, though I say it; but a contentious temper, flattering servants, and unfortunate stars, have brought me into circumstances that are not unknown to you. These my misfortunes are heightened by domestick calamities. That I need not relate. I am a poor battered old fellow, and I would willingly end my days in peace: but alas! I see but small hopes of that, for every new circumstance affords an argument to my enemies to pursue their revenge; formerly I was to be banged, because I was too strong, and now because I am too weak to resist; I am to be brought down when too rich, and oppressed when too poor. *Nic. Frog* has used me like a scoundrel;

scoundrel : you are a gentleman, and I freely put myself in your hands to dispose of me as you think fit.

J. Bull. Look you, Master *Baboon*, as to your usage of your neighbours, you had best not dwell too much upon that chapter ; let it suffice at present, that you have been met with : you have been rolling a great stone up hill all your life, and at last it has come tumbling down till it is like to crush you to pieces : plain-dealing is best. If you have any particular mark, Mr. *Baboon*, whereby one may know when you fib, and when you speak truth, you had best tell it me, that one may proceed accordingly ; but since at present I know of none such, it is better that you should trust me , than that I shall trust you.

L. Baboon. I know of no particular mark of veracity amongst us tradesmen, but interest ; and it is manifestly mine not to deceive you at this time ; you may safely trust me, I can assure you.

J. Bull. The trust I give is in short
this ;

this ; I must have something in hand, before I make the bargain, and the rest before it is concluded.

L. Baboon- To shew you I deal fairly, name your something.

J. Bull. I need not tell thee, old boy ; thou canst guess.

L. Baboon. * *Ecclesdown-castle*, I'll warrant you, because it has been formerly in your family ! Say no more, you shall have it.

J. Bull. I shall have it to m'own self ?

L. Baboon. To thy n'own self.

J. Bull. Every wall, gate, room, and inch of *Ecclesdown-castle*, you say !

L. Baboon. Just so.

J. Bull. Every single stone of *Ecclesdown-castle*, to m'own self, speedily !

L. Baboon.

* *Dunkirk.*

L. Baboon. When you please ; what needs more words ?

J. Bull. But tell me, old boy, hast thou laid aside all thy *equivocals* and *mentals* in this case ?

L. Baboon. There's nothing like matter of fact ; seeing is believing.

J. Bull. Now thou talk'st to the purpose ; let us shake hands, old boy. Let me ask thee one question more ; What hast thou to do to meddle with the affairs of my family ? to dispose of my estate, old boy ?

L. Baboon. Just as much as you have to do with the affairs of lord *Strutt*.

J. Bull. Ay, but my trade, my very being was concerned in that.

L. Baboon. And my interest was concerned in the other : but let us both drop our pretences ; for I believe it is a moot point, whether I am more likely to make a Master *Bull*, or you a lord *Strutt*.

S

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Agreed, old boy; but then I must have security, that I shall carry my broad-cloth to market, old boy.

L. Baboon. That you shall: *Ecclestown-castle ! Ecclestown !* remember that: why would'st thou not take it, when it was offered thee some years ago ?

J. Bull. I would not take it, because they told me thou would not give it me.

L. Baboon. How could monsieur *Bull* be so grossly abused by downright nonsense ? they that advised you to refuse, must have believed I intended to give, else why would they not make the experiment ? but I can tell you more of that matter, than perhaps you know at present.

J. Bull. But what say'st thou as to the esquire, *Nic. Frog*, and the rest of the tradesmen ! I must take care of them.

L. Baboon. Thou hast but small obligation

ligation to *Nic.* to my certain knowledge : he has not used me like a gentleman.

J. Bull. *Nic.* indeed is not very nice in your punctilio's of ceremony ; he is clownish, as a man may say : belching and calling of names have been allowed him time out of mind, by prescription : but however, we are engaged in one common cause, and I must look after him.

L. Baboon. All matters that relate to him, and the rest of the plaintiffs in this law-suit, I will refer to your justice.

C H A P. XIX.

Nic. Frog's letter to John Bull ; wherein he endeavours to vindicate all his conduct, with relation to John Bull and the law-suit.

NIC. perceived now that his cully had eloped, that *John* intended henceforth

henceforth to deal without a broker ; but he was resolved to leave no stone unturned to recover his bubble : amongst other artifices he wrote a most obliging letter, which he sent him printed in a fair character.

* “ DEAR FRIEND,

“ WHEN I consider the late ill
 “ usage I have met with from
 “ you, I was reflecting what it was that
 “ could provoke you to it ; but upon a
 “ narrow inspection into my conduct, I
 “ can find nothing to reproach myself
 “ with, but too partial a concern for
 “ your interest. You no sooner set
 “ this composition a-foot, but I was
 “ ready to comply, and prevented your
 “ very wishes ; and the affair might
 “ have been ended before now, had it
 “ not been for the greater concerns of
 “ esquire *South*, and the other poor
 “ creatures embarked in the same com-
 “ mon cause, whose safety touches me
 “ to the quick. You seemed a little
 “ jealous, that I had dealt unfairly with
 “ you

* Substance of the States' letter.

“ you in money-matters, ’till it appeared
“ by your own accounts, that there was
“ something due to me upon the bal-
“ ance. Having nothing to answer to
“ so plain a demonstration, you began
“ to complain, as if I had been familiar
“ with your reputation ; when it is well
“ known, not only I, but the meanest
“ servants in my family, talk of you
“ with the utmost respect. I have al-
“ ways, as far as in me lies, exhorted
“ your servants and tenants to be duti-
“ ful ; not that I any way meddle in
“ your domestick affairs, which were
“ very unbecoming for me to do. If
“ some of your servants express their
“ great concern for you in a manner,
“ that is not so very polite, you ought
“ to impute it to their extraordinary
“ zeal, which deserves a reward rather
“ than a reproof. You cannot reproach
“ me for want of success at the *Saluta-*
“ *tion*, since I am not master of the
“ passions and interests of other folks.
“ I have beggared myself with this
“ law-suit, undertaken merely in com-
“ plaissance to you ; and if you would
“ have had but a little patience, I had

“ still greater things in reserve, that I
 “ intended to have done for you. I
 “ hope, what I have said will prevail
 “ with you to lay aside your unreason-
 “ able jealousies, and that we may have
 “ no more meetings at the *Salutation*,
 “ spending our time and money to no
 “ purpose. My concern for your wel-
 “ fare and prosperity almost makes me
 “ mad. You may be assured I will
 “ continue to be

“ Your affectionate

“ Friend and servant,

NIC. FROG.”

John received this with a good deal
 of *sang froid : transeat*, (quoth John)
cum cæteris erroribus. He was now at
 his ease ; he saw he could now make a
 very good bargain for himself, and a
 very safe one for other folks. “ My
 “ shirt, (quoth he) is near me, but my
 “ skin is nearer : whilst I take care of
 “ the welfare of other folks no body
 “ can blame me to apply a little balsam
 “ to my own sores. It’s a pretty thing,
 “ after

“ after all, for a man to do his own
 “ business ; a man has such a tender
 “ concern for himself, there’s nothing
 “ like it. This is something better, I
 “ trow, than for *John Bull* to be stand-
 “ ing in the market, like a great dray-
 “ horse, with *Frog’s* paws upon his head.
 “ -----What will you give me for this
 “ beast ? *Serviteur Nic. Frog*, you may
 “ kiss my backside if you please. Tho’
 “ *John Bull* had not read your *Aris-*
 “ *totles*, *Platos*, and *Machiavels*, he can
 “ see as far into a mill-stone as another.”
 With that *John* began to chuckle and
 laugh, till he was like to have burst his
 sides.

C H A P. XX.

† *The discourse that passed between Nic.
 Frog, and esquire South, which John
 Bull overheard.*

J O H N thought every minute a year,
 ’till he got into *Ecclestown-castle* ;
 he

* Negotiations between the Emperor and the *Dutch* for
 continuing the war, and getting the property of *Flanders*.

he repairs to the *Salutation*, with a design to break the matter gently to his partners ; before he entered, he overheard *Nic.* and the esquire in a very pleasant conference.

Esq. South. Oh the ingratitude and injustice of mankind ! that *John Bull*, whom I have honoured with my friendship and protection so long, should flinch at last, and pretend that he can disburse no more money for me ! that the family of the *Souths*, by his sneaking temper, should be kept out of their own !

Nic. Frog. An't like your worship, I am in amaze at it ; I think the rogue should be compelled to his duty.

Esq. South. That he should prefer his scandalous pelf, the dust and dregs of the earth, to the prosperity and grandeur of my family.

Nic. Frog. Nay, he is mistaken there too ; for he would quickly lick himself whole again by his vails. It's strange
he

he should prefer *Philip Baboon's* custom to esquire *South's*.

Esq. South. As you say, that my clothier, that is to get so much by the purchase, should refuse to put me in possession ; did you ever know any man's tradesman serve him so before ?

Nic. Frog. No, indeed, an't please your worship, it is a very unusual proceeding ; and I would not have been guilty of it for the world. If your honour had not a great stock of moderation and patience, you would not bear it so well as you do.

Esq. South. It is most intolerable, that's certain, *Nic.* and I will be revenged.

Nic. Frog. Methinks it is strange, that *Philip Baboon's* tenants do not all take your honour's part, considering how good and gentle a master you are.

Esq. South. True, *Nic.* but few are sensible of merit in this world ; it is a great

great comfort, to have so faithful a friend as thyself in so critical a juncture.

Nic. Frog. If all the world should forsake you, be assured *Nic. Frog* never will ; let us stick to our point, and we'll manage *Bull*, I'll warrant ye.

Esq. South. Let me kiss thee, dear *Nic.* I have found one honest man among a thousand at last.

Nic. Frog. If it were possible, your honour has it in your power to wed me still closer to your interest.

Esq. South. Tell me quickly, dear *Nic.*

Nic. Frog. You know I am your tenant ; the difference between my lease and an inheritance is such a trifle, as I am sure you will not grudge your poor friend ; that will be an encouragement to go on ; besides it will make *Bull* as mad as the devil : you and I shall be able to manage him then to some purpose.

Esq.

Esq. South. Say no more, it shall be done, *Nic.* to thy heart's content.

John all this while was listening to this comical dialogue, and laughed heartily in his sleeve at the pride and simplicity of the esquire, and the fly-roguery of his friend *Nic.* Then of a sudden bolting into the room, he began to tell them, that he believed he had brought *Lewis* to reasonable terms, if they would please to hear them.

Then they all bawl'd out aloud, "No composition, Long live esquire *South* and the law!" As *John* was going to proceed, some roared, some stamped with their feet, others stopt their ears with their fingers.

"Nay, gentleman, (quoth *John*) if you will but stop proceeding for a while, you shall judge yourselves, whether **Lewis's* proposals are reasonable.

All. Very fine indeed, stop proceeding, and so lose a term.

J. Bull.

*Proposals for cessation of arms, and delivery of *Dunkirk*.

J. Bull. Not so neither, we have something by way of advance, he will put us in possession of his manor and castle of *Ecclestown*.

Nic. Frog. What dost talk of us, thou meanest thyself.

J. Bull. When *Frog* took possession of any thing, it was always said to be for us, and why may not *John Bull* be us? as well as *Nic. Frog* was us? *John Bull* is no more confined to singularity than *Nic. Frog*; or, take it so, the constant doctrine, that thou hast preached up for many years, was, that Thou and I are One; and why must we be supposed Two in this case, that were always One before: it's impossible that Thou and I could fall out, *Nic.* we must trust one another; I have trusted thee with a great many things, prithee trust me with this one trifle.

Nic. Frog. That principle is true in the main, but there is some *speciality* in this case, that makes it highly inconvenient for us both.

J. Bull.

J. Bull. Those are your jealousies, that the common enemies sow between us ; how often hast thou warned me of those rogues, *Nic.* that would make us mistrustful of one another !

Nic. Frog. This *Ecclestown-castle* is only a bone of contention.

J. Bull. It depends upon you to make it so, for my part, I am as quiet as a lamb.

Nic. Frog. But do you consider the unwholesomeness of the air and soil, the expences of reparation and servants ? I would scorn to accept of such a quagmire.

J. Bull. You are a great man, *Nic.* but in my circumstances, I must be e'en content to take it as it is.

Nic. Frog. And you are really so silly as to believe the old cheating rogue will give it you ?

J. Bull. I believe nothing but mat-
T ter

ter of fact, I stand and fall by that, I am resolved to put him to it.

Nic. Frog. And so relinquish the hopefullest cause in the world, a claim that will certainly in the end make thy fortune for ever!

J. Bull. Wilt thou purchase it, *Nic*? thou shalt have a lumping penny-worth; nay, rather than we should differ, I'll give thee something to take it off my hands.

Nic. Frog. If thou would'st, but moderate that hasty, impatient temper of thine, thou should'st quickly see a better thing than all that. What should'st thou think to find old *Lewis* turned out of his paternal estates, and the mansion-house of **Clay-pool*? Would not that do thy heart good, to see thy old friend, *Nic. Frog*, Lord of *Claypool*? then thou and thy wife and children should walk in my gardens, buy toys, drink lemonade, and now and then we should have a country dance.

J. Bull.

* *Clay-pool*, *Paris*. *Lutetia*.

J. Bull. I love to be plain, I'd as lieve see myself in *Ecclestown-castle*, as thee in *Claypool* ; I tell you again, *Lewis* gives this as a pledge of his sincerity ; if you won't stop proceeding to hear him, I will.

C H A P. XXI.

* *The rest of Nic's fetches to keep John out of Ecclestown-castle.*

WHEN *Nic.* could not dissuade *John* by argument, he tried to move his pity ; he pretended to be sick and like to die, that he should leave his wife and children in a starving condition, if *John* did abandon him ; that he was hardly able to crawl about the room, far less capable to look after such a troublesome business as this law-suit, and therefore begged that his good friend would not leave him. When he saw that *John* was still inexorable, he pulled

* Attempts to hinder the cessation, and taking possession of *Dunkirk*.

pulled out a case knife, with which he used to snicker-snee, and threatened to cut his own throat. Thrice he aimed the knife to his wind-pipe with a most determined threatening air. “What signifies life, (quoth he) in this languishing condition? It will be some pleasure that my friends will revenge my death upon this barbarous man, that has been the cause of it.” All this while *John* looked sedate and calm, neither offering in the least to snatch the knife, nor stop his blow, trusting to the tenderness *Nic.* had for his own person: when he perceived that *John* was immoveable in his purpose, he applied himself to *Lewis*.

“Art thou, (quoth he) turned bubble in thy old age, from being a sharper in thy youth? What occasion hast thou to give up *Ecclestown-castle* to *John Bull*? his friendship is not worth a rush; give it me, and I’ll make it worth thy while. If thou hearkenest not to my advice, take what follows; esquire *South* and I will

“ will go on with our law suit in spite
“ of *John Bull's* teeth.”

L. Baboon. Monsieur *Bull* has used me like a gentleman, and I am resolved to make good my promise, and trust him for the consequences.

Nic. Frog. Then I tell thee thou art an old doating fool.-----With that, *Nic.* bounced up with a spring equal to that of one of your nimblest tumblers or rope-dancers, and fell foul upon *John Bull*, to snatch the * cudgel he had in his hand, that he might thwack *Lewis* with it: *John* held it fast, so that there was no wrenching it from him. At last 'squire *South* buckled too, to assist his friend *Nic.*: *John* hauled on one side, and they two on the other; sometimes they were like to pull *John* over; then it went all of a sudden again on *John's* side; so they went see-sawing up and down, from one end of the room to the other. Down tumbled the tables, bottles, glasses, and tobacco-pipes: the wine and the tobacco were all spilt

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about

* The army.

about the room, and the little fellows were almost trod under foot, till more of the tradesman joining with *Nic.* and the 'squire, *John* was hardly able to pull against them all, yet would he never quit hold of his trusty cudgel; which, by the contrary force of two so great powers, * broke short in his hands. *Nic.* seized the longer end, and with it began to bastinado old *Lewis*, who had flunk into a corner, waiting the event of this squabble. *Nic.* came up to him with an insolent menacing air, so that the old fellow was forced to skuttle out of the room, and retire behind a dung-cart. He called to *Nic.* "Thou insolent jackanapes! Time was when thou
 "durst not have used me so, thou now
 "takest me unprovided, but, old and
 "infirm as I am, I shall find a weapon
 "by and by to chastise thy impudence."

When *John Bull* had recovered his breath, he began to parley with *Nic.*
 "Friend *Nic.* I am glad to find thee so
 "strong after thy great complaints:
 "really thy motions, *Nic.* are pretty
 "vigorous

* The separation of the army.

“ vigorous for a consumptive man. As
 “ for thy worldly affairs, *Nic.* if it can
 “ do thee any service, I freely make
 “ over to thee this *profitable law-suit*,
 “ and I desire all these gentlemen to
 “ bear witness to this my act and deed.
 “ Yours be all the gain, as mine as been
 “ the charges ; I have brought it to
 “ bear finely : However, all I have laid
 “ out upon it goes for nothing, thou
 “ shalt have it with all its appurtenan-
 “ ces, I ask nothing but leave to go
 “ home.”

Nic. Frog. The counsel are fed, and
 all things prepared for a trial, thou shalt
 be forced to stand the issue : it shall be
 pleaded in thy name as well as mine :
 go home if thou can’st, the gates are
 shut, * the turnpikes locked, and the
 roads barricadoed.

J. Bull. Even these very ways, *Nic.*
 that thou toldest me, were as open to
 me as thyself : if I can’t pass with my
 own equipage, what can I expect for
 my goods and waggons ? I am denied
 passage

* Difficulty of the march of part of the army to *Dunkirk*.

passage through those very grounds, that I have purchased with my own money ; however, I am glad I have made the experiment, it may serve me in some stead.

John Bull was so overjoyed that he was going to take possession of *Ecclif-down*, that nothing could vex him. “*Nic.* (quoth he) I am just a going to leave thee, cast a kind look upon me at parting.”

Nic. looked sour and grum, and would not open his mouth.

J. Bull. “I wish thee all the success that thy heart can desire, and that these honest gentlemen of the long robe may have their belly full of law.”

Nic. could stand it no longer, but flung out of the room with disdain, and beckoned the lawyers to follow him.

J. Bull. “Bye, bye, *Nic.* not one poor smile at parting ; won’t you shake your day-day, *Nic.* bye *Nic.*” With that *John* marched out of the common road cross the country to take possession of *Ecclifdown*.

CHAP.

C H A P. XXII.

*Of the great joy that John expressed when he got possession of * Eccleldown.*

WHEN John had got into his castle, he seemed like *Ulysses* upon his plank after he had been well foused in salt-water ; who (as *Homer* says) was as glad as a judge going to sit down to dinner, after hearing a long cause upon the bench. I dare say, *John Bull's* joy was equal to either of the two ; he skipped from room to room ; ran up stairs and down stairs, from the kitchen to the garrets, and from the garrets to the kitchen ; he peeped into every cranny ; sometimes he admired the beauty of the architecture, and the vast solidity of the mason's work ; at other times he commended the symmetry and proportion of the rooms. He walked about the gardens ; he bathed himself in the canal, swimming, diving, and beating the liquid element, like a milk-white swan. The hall resounded with the sprightly violin,

* *Dunkirk.*

violin, and the martial hautboy. The family tript it about and capered, like *hail-stones bounding from a marble floor*. Wine, ale, and *October* flew about as plentifully as kennel-water ; then a frolick took *John* in the head to call up *Nic. Frog's pensioners*, that had been so mutinous in his family.

J. Bull. Are you glad to see your master in *Ecclestown-castle* ?

All. Yes, indeed, Sir,

J. Bull. Extremely glad ?

All. Extremely glad, Sir.

J. Bull. Swear to me that you are so.

Then they began to damn and sink their souls to the lowest pit of hell, if any person in the world rejoiced more than they did. 15 OC 61

J. Bull. Now hang me if I don't believe you are a parcel of perjured rascals ; however, take this bumper of *October* to your master's health.

Then

Then *John* got upon the battlements, and looking over, he called to *Nic. Frog* :

“ How d’ye do, *Nic* ? D’ye see
“ where I am, *Nic* ? I hope the *cause*
“ goes on swimmingly, *Nic*. When
“ dost thou intend to go to *Clay-pool*,
“ *Nic* ? Wilt thou buy there some high
“ heads of the newest cut for my daughters ?
“ How comest thou to go with
“ thy arm tied up ? Has old *Lewis*
“ given thee a rap over thy fingers’-
“ ends ? Thy weapon was a good one,
“ when I wielded it, but the butt-end
“ remains in my hands. I am so busy
“ in packing up my goods, that I have
“ no time to talk with thee any longer.
“ It would do thy heart good to see
“ what waggon-loads I am preparing
“ for market. If thou wantest any
“ good office of mine, for all that has
“ happened, I will use thee well, *Nic*.
“ Bye *Nic*.”

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